Gov't bars Dante Tan from leaving for HK

STORY ON PAGE A2

Priest defends snakes: No 'trapos'

By Alcuin Papa

PLEASE don't insult reptiles by comparing them to *trapos* or traditional politicians.

Running priest and animal lover Fr. Robert Reyes made the appeal to the press yesterday in reaction to editorial cartoons portraying traditional politicians as snakes, crocodiles and other animals.

PRIEST/ A15

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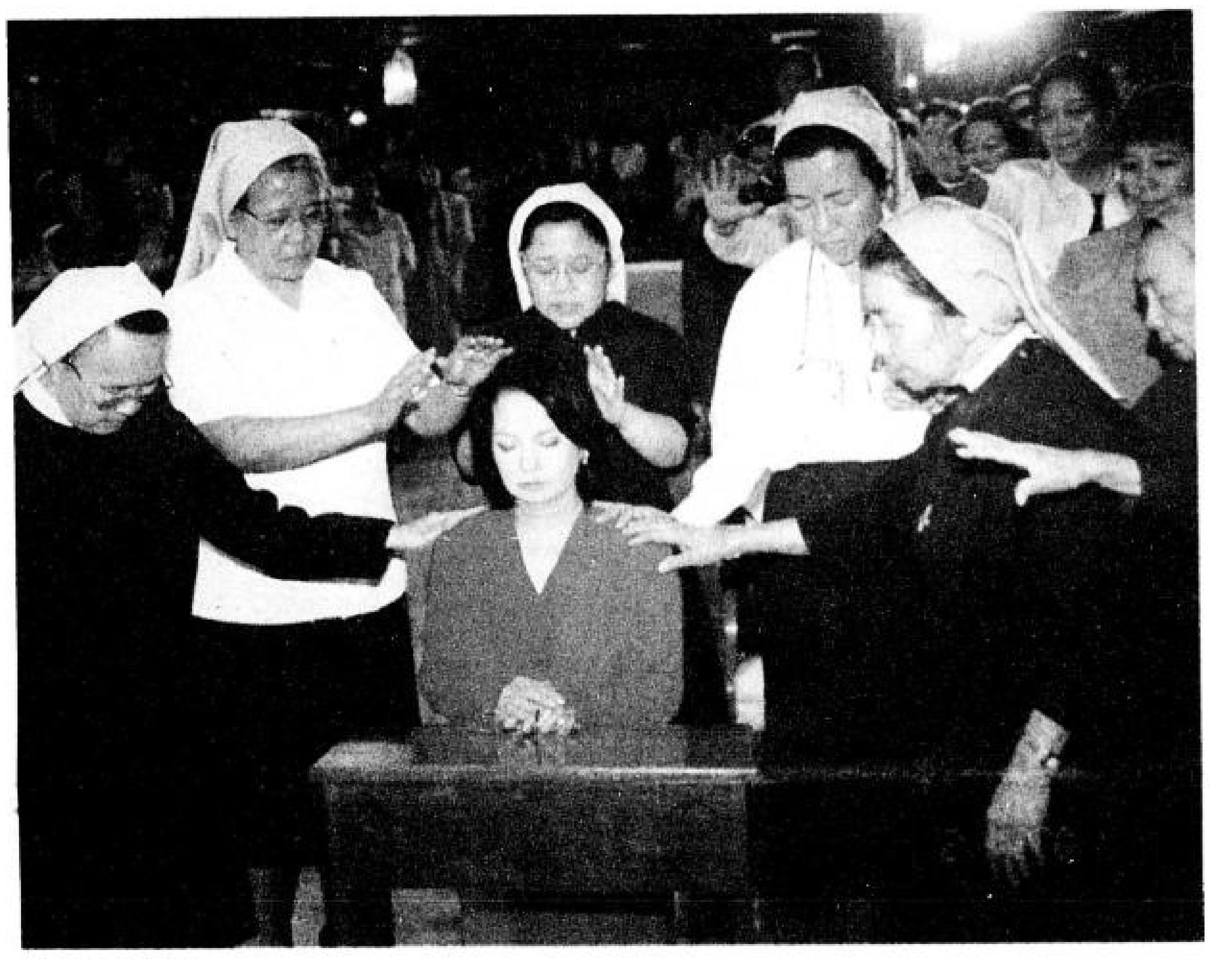
DILG declares war on 'jueteng'

Lina won't let numbers game decide polls

BOWING ACQUAINTANCE JOAN BONDOC

Or so it would seem as ex-Speaker Arnulfo Fuentebella and Isabela Rep. Faustino Dy Jr. take their seats to lunch with President Macapagal. The solons together with other key officials of the Nationalist People's Coalition have declared their support for the President.



BLESSINGS

The sisters of Assumption College led by Sr. Luz Emel Soriano pray over their most outstanding alumna during a thanksgiving Mass Monday at the Palace.

By Christine Herrera

"JUETENG" operators identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada have revived their operations, raising fears within the Department of the Interior and Local Government that they might finance the campaign of certain senatorial and local candidates.

The resurgence of jueteng prompted the Macapagal administration to declare an all-out war against the numbers game and other forms of illegal gambling.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina said yesterday that the government would not allow jueteng money to flow and decide the winners of the May 14 elections.

In a command conference, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported that jueteng operations had been reactivated in 28 provinces in Luzon and 14 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila.

Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza, acting PNP chief, noted that the jueteng lords named during the impeachment trial of Estrada were "bold enough" to revive their operations.

Lina admitted that President Macapagal-Arroyo was worried that billions in jueteng money could be tapped in the May elections.

"We all know that the deposed President was involved in jueteng during and after he was elected, that he collected millions from that illegal operation and that he was ousted because of that," Lina said.

He said it was enough that the "Juetengate" caused public outrage that led to People Power II and the ouster of Estrada.

To check illegal gambling, Lina invoked the aggressive implementation of the "Doctrine of Command Responsibility."

Lina warned that the policemen, the chief of police, provincial director and regional director would be automatically relieved if jueteng operations continued in their areas of responsibility.

As for local government officials, control over the police will

DILG/ A4

Generals want say on new AFP chief

By Carlito Pablo and Armand N. Nocum

THE BOARD of Generals chaired by Gen. Angelo Reyes, outgoing chief of staff of the Armed Forces, will have a say on who will replace him, acting Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

According to sources, Reyes, who will retire at age 56 on March 17, is likely to recommend Army chief Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

Sources in Malacañang said Reyes would be given the defense portfolio upon his retirement.

Ermita said that by law, President Macapagal-Arroyo could choose from any of the star-rank officers down to the level of senior colonels.

By tradition, the commanders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Southern Command are natural contenders.

"I cannot have a personal choice because the (Board of Generals) definitely will have its say and recommend who it thinks would be the most capable," Ermita said in a chance interview at Camp Aguinaldo.

The board has as members the vice chief of staff, deputy chief of staff and three service commanders.

GENERALS/ A14

Electoral backlash seen vs pro-Erap candidates

By TJ Burgonio, Martin P. Marfil and Donna S. Cueto

AS PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday campaigned energetically for senatorial bets of the ruling coalition, Fidel Ramos predicted an "electoral backlash" against the opposition ticket following the decision of former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito to lead the pro-Estrada senatorial slate.

Ramos, while wishing Ejercito well, echoed election officials' warnings that her candidacy could be a mere cover for ousted President Joseph Estrada's own political plans.

"I hope this is not a smokescreen for some other person by the name of Estrada to come in afterwards. That's a possibility. It has been done before," Ramos said in an interview before departing for Hong Kong to speak at an awards ceremony of the Far Eastern Economic Review.

The omnibus election code provides that if a candidate "dies, withdraws or is disqualified for any cause," a nominated party mate may replace the candidate.

A later republic act says that "in case of valid substitutions after the official ballots have been printed, the votes cast for (the original candidate) shall be considered votes for the (substitute)."

Ejercito, who filed her certificate of candidacy Tuesday through her son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, leads the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino senatorial slate which is running under the banner "Puwersa ng Masa."

Ramos, chair of the Lakas-NUCD, which heads the ruling coalition, said that Ejercito was qualified to run for the Senate.

ELECTORAL/ A14

No love lost for Estrada

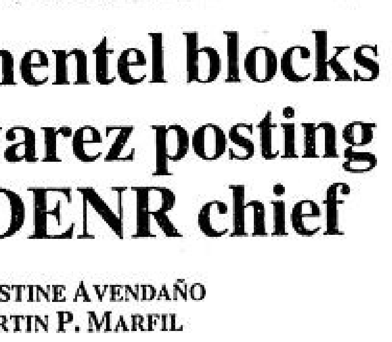
By Andrea T. Echavez and Michael Lim Ubac

THEY may be grim and determined, but who says they're above celebrating the Day of Hearts?

Activists yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to show her love for the people by leading her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada to his detention cell.

They issued the call during a

NO LOVE/ A14



NGEK! ANONG KLASENG VALENTINES 'TO?

Envelope that toppled Erap opened

By Blanche S. Rivera, Christine Avendaño and Michael Lim Ubac

"LEAVE it sealed so we can have a tourist attraction."

Former Sen. Raul Roco, now the education secretary, did not get his wish after Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. finally opened yesterday the controversial second envelope.

As expected, the envelope contained records of a P3.2-billion account of ousted President Joseph Estrada with Equitable PCI Bank under the name Jose Velarde and a letter from his crony Jaime Dichaves, who earlier claimed that he was Velarde.

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo said the disclosure of the envelope's contents was anticlimactic at this point as these were already known to the public a few days after the Senate impeachment court voted 11-10 against opening the envelope.

Pimentel turned over the documents to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, whose office had requested the documents in connection with its investigation of the plunder charges against Mr. Estrada.

"Whatever would be the verdict of history

ENVELOPE/ A14

TOO late the heroics; let the envelope be and exhibited as a historic document, as proposed by Education Secretary Raul Roco. But it does make a good photo-op for Senator Cayetano, Senate President Pimentel and Ombudsman Desierto. JESS YUSON

Pimentel blocks Alvarez posting as DENR chief

By Christine Avendaño and Martin P. Marfil

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez are once again at loggerheads over forest conservation.

Pimentel yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo not to appoint Alvarez as secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, saying he had doubts the former senator would be able to protect the country's remaining forests.

In reaction, Alvarez accused Pimentel of wanting to impose "martial law in the forests."

Pimentel and Alvarez had clashed over the same issue during the 8th Congress. Alvarez, then a senator, proposed a selective log ban while Pimentel pushed for a 25-year log ban nationwide.

In 1991, the Senate approved Pimentel's bill after a long debate. The proposed measure, however, did not pass the bicameral conference committee.

"I submit that protecting our forests against indiscriminate logging is an integral plank of your announced environmental platform,"

PIMENTEL/ A4

MALI NAMAN KASI 'YUNG PARUSA!

Dante Tan stopped at Naia

By TJ Burgonio

BUSINESSMAN Dante Tan was barred from leaving the country yesterday after airport immigration authorities remembered the erstwhile crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada was on the immigration watchlist.

Tan's attempt to travel to Hong Kong came four days after the government ordered a reinvestigation of the stock manipulation case involving his gaming firm, BW Resources Corp.

Immediately after Tan's attempt to leave was discovered, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo issued hold-departure orders against him.

Tan, chair of BW Resources, which figured in the biggest stock trading scandal in the country, had been placed on the immigration watchlist only on Tuesday.

Persons on the watchlist are not really barred from leaving but any attempt to travel is reported to Bureau of Immigration officials.

In their orders, Perez and Domingo barred Tan's departure from the country in light of the case pending against him in a Pasig City court and the possible filing of additional charges against him in the stock fraud case.

"There is urgent need to...ensure his (Tan's) presence at the pending proceedings to accomplish the aims of justice," Perez said.

Tan was indicted in October 1999 together with former BW president Eduardo "Moonie" Lim and a friend, Jimmy Juan, for violation of the Securities Act when they allegedly manipulated the share price of BW, a gaming firm.

The scandal nearly shut down the Philippine Stock Exchange in 1999. The case pends before a Pasig regional trial court.

Immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said a Tan emissary identified only as Manny approached supervisors Mamerto Palon and Regalado Medalla and asked them if Tan would be allowed to leave for abroad.

Manny showed them Tan's travel papers, a court order allowing him to travel and an airline ticket showing that Tan was booked on Cathay Pacific flight CX 906 bound for Hong Kong at 11 a.m.

At that time, Tan was reportedly somewhere in the airport terminal waiting for the immigration clearance.

Recalling that Tan was on their watchlist, Palon told Manny that the controversial businessman would only be allowed to leave if he secured an Allow Departure Order from Commissioner Domingo. Tan's emissary reportedly left.

A few minutes later, Palon got a call from the BI main office saying that a hold-departure order had been issued against Tan. The BI then faxed a copy of the order to the airport.

Secretary Perez ordered the BW Resources stocks case reopened last Feb. 10.

He instructed government prosecutors to look into the possibility of filing new charges against those connected to the scandal after the Securities and Exchange Commission submitted new evidence to his department.

TAN

POLICE ACADEMY HAZING

CA rebukes Lim on cadets' dismissal

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COURT of Appeals has rebuked former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim for dismissing, without a formal investigation, 135 police cadets in connection with the death, possibly by hazing, of another Philippine National Police Academy cadet.

The CA's 10th Division said Lim, then Assistant Secretary Alexander Padilla and Philippine Public Safety College officials violated due process when they prejudged the case by punishing all the 460 upperclassmen last year for the death of police cadet 4th class Dominante A. Tunac.

The appellate court issued on Feb. 9 a temporary restraining order to reinstate the 135 dismissed police cadets as well as the 77 cadets who were suspended in connection with Tunac's death.

The rest of the upperclassmen had been slapped with demerits.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, counsel for the upperclassmen, said the CA noted in its resolution that the cadets had been publicly maligned, stripped of self-respect, ridiculed and branded as "criminals" by Lim and the other respondents "without due process of law."

Tunac allegedly died during hazing rites at the police academy. However, Lim and even the NBI both failed to pinpoint the alleged culprits.

The upperclassmen maintain that Tunac was already sick when he entered the academy. The rigors of training and failure of the medical officers at the academy to immediately rush Tunac to a Manila hospital for proper treatment may have led to his death, they insist.

Associate Justice Eloy Bello Jr., who penned the decision, agreed that hazing was a barbaric and condemnable act.

But giving justice to the "unfortunate victim" should not be accomplished "by means or methods in violation of the constitutional rights of the individuals, including (their) right to due process," he wrote.

In issuing the TRO, the CA's associate justices noted that the upperclassmen were punished "without any findings as to their identification and their exact participation in the alleged hazing of Tunac."

They said Lim and his co-respondents could not just punish the upperclassmen because of their alleged refusal to talk.

As there was a perceived violation of the cadets' right to due process, Bello and Associate Justices Eugenio Labitoria and Perlita Tria Tirona issued the TRO "to have a more ample time to evaluate and judiciously study whether or not to issue a writ of preliminary mandatory injunction."

Based on the report of a fact-finding committee, headed by Padilla, which investigated the circumstances surrounding the death of Tunac on May 15, Lim handed down the order to punish the cadets on July 13.

Also named as respondents in the CA case were PPSC president Ernesto Gimenez and PNPA officer in charge Leticia Sanchez. The PPSC supervises the academy, which is located in Silang, Cavite.

Low-key Luli does VIP parents proud

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PROUD parents could not say enough of their only daughter who resolutely refused to be given any special treatment at the international airport the other day.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel, said their daughter, Lourdes "Luli" Evangeline, did them proud.

"That is good, she should be aware that that is how things should be," Arroyo said.

"Maybe this should be a good example to others," Ms Macapagal, who has stressed since assuming the presidency that she would lead by example and maintain a simple lifestyle, said over radio dzRH.

Arroyo said his daughter, nicknamed Luli, was a "humble" person.

"She is a simple girl," he said.

The young Arroyo, who left for the United States last Tuesday, chose to queue up at the check-in counter at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She also had her baggage checked with the other passengers, refusing offers from Naia personnel to give her special treatment.

The 29-year-old Luli was to attend a seminar on computer programming in the US.

Arroyo said he and the President trained their children well and warned them not to be carried away by the trappings of power.

He said he and his children know that they can only expect to have VIP treatment when they are with the President.

According to Arroyo, they are just "ordinary citizens" when they travel separately from the President.

"It was as it should be. She should fall in line. When I went to Hong Kong last Thursday, I also lined up. I also do that," Arroyo said in Filipino.

Old-fashioned Valentine's Day at the Palace

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR A VALENTINE'S Day celebration, it was pretty traditional—Mass in the morning, flowers and then dinner.

But for President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, their 33rd Valentine's Day together as a couple was extra special because it was their first to be marked in Malacañang.

To set the tone for the day of romance, Arroyo said he opted to attend Mass with the President at 8 a.m. at the Palace chapel.

"There is a Mass daily which the President attends, but this morning I will join her," he told radio station dzRH shortly before the Mass started.

"Later tonight we will have private time. We will have a private dinner, just the two of us in the Palace," Arroyo told radio listeners.

During the dinner, he said, he would give flowers to the President. "Of course, there will be roses for her, red roses."

Asked what she was giving him, Arroyo said his wife's presence was enough.

"Her Valentine gift? Her presence, just her presence," he said.

He said past Valentine's days always found them together.

"Yes, we have always been together, all the past Valentine's days," said Arroyo, who met the future president in 1962 in Baguio City at the birthday party of a cousin. Arroyo was 16 and Ms Macapagal was 15.

They were married six years later and had three children—Jose Miguel Jr., Lourdes Evangeline and Diosdado Ignacio.

Since she assumed the presidency Jan. 20, Ms Macapagal has been keeping a hectic schedule. Yesterday was one of the few times in weeks she had private time for herself and her family.

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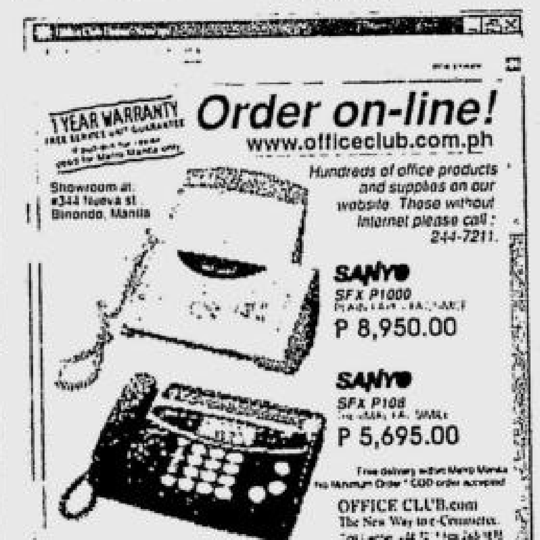
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No lies, Roco tells DECS execs

By B.S. Rivera

I DON'T want lies.

Newly appointed Education Secretary Raul Roco gave this stern warning to officials of the controversial and reportedly graft-ridden Department of Education, Culture and Sports in their first executive meeting yesterday amid a jubilant celebration of his formal takeover of the country's largest bureaucracy.

Roco, a former senator and staunch advocate of transparency with his popular "sunshine principle," said he would go after DECS officials engaged in illegal activities during his tenure at the DECS.

"I don't want to be told lies," Roco warned the DECS undersecretaries, assistant secretaries and regional directors assembled for the first Management Committee meeting presided by Roco at the DECS Central Office in Pasig City early morning yesterday.

"I like candor. If you will mislead me, that will not be good," he stressed. "We all get mad when we are lied to."

The directors were asked to submit a comprehensive report of their accomplishments and pending projects or problems so the new DECS chief could draw the line of accountability.

He said he would strive to remove the stigma of DECS as a graft-ridden bureaucracy, adding that the result of surveys citing the DECS as one of the most corrupt agencies merely reflected "a perception, which may not necessarily be true."

Roco also said he would bring the sunshine principle of transparency into the DECS affairs and would make information on projects and policies accessible to the public and DECS personnel.

"You know the principle, they have less bacteria who are exposed to the sun. We will try to get rid of the bacteria at the DECS," he said.

Roco said he may not appoint new undersecretaries for Legal and External Affairs, saying he and his staff, some of whom are lawyers, were knowledgeable enough in laws governing educational policies and project implementation.

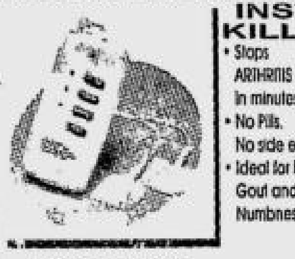
He said his predecessor, Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, appointed a legal undersecretary because he was not a lawyer and needed legal advice from time to time.

The Ombudsman suspended for six months without pay former Undersecretary for Legal Bartolome Carale, along with Finance Undersecretary Antonio Valdes, for violation of the Anti-Graft Law and the Ombudsman Act.

They were the ones who facilitated the purchase of the luxury vehicles using the P24-million donation from the Landbank of the Philippines intended for the purchase of computers and other office equipment.

"Eventually, the posts may be filled up, but I'm not in a hurry," Roco said. He appointed only Isagani R. Cruz, a former dean of the De La Salle University English department, as Undersecretary for Programs and Planning, while Undersecretary Ramon Bacani would be retained to take Valdes' post.

Gonzalez formally turned over the management of the DECS to Roco after the three-hour executive meeting, saying the former senator would surely have an "easier time" dealing with Congress to lobby for a bigger budget for DECS.



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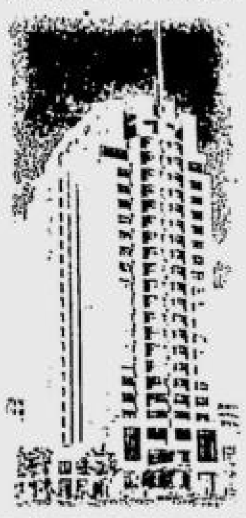

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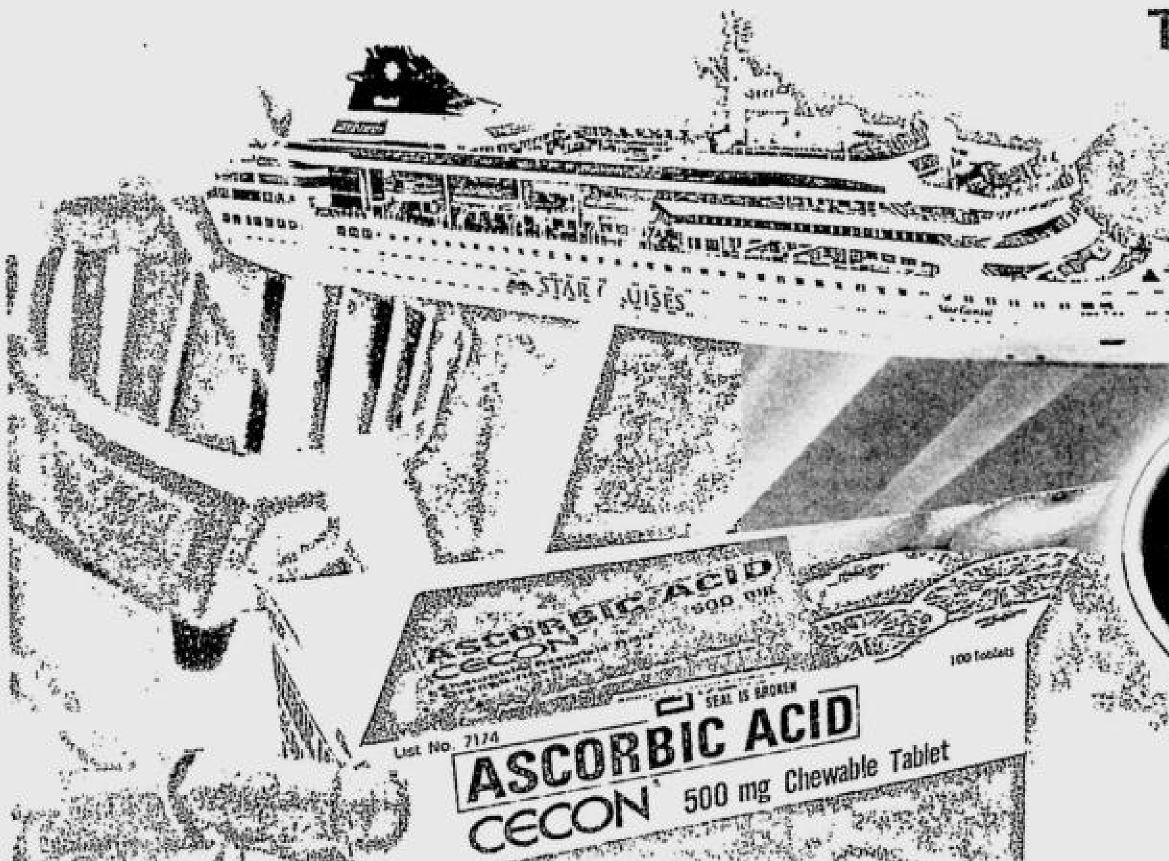

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DILG declares war on 'jueteng'

(From page A1)

be taken away from them once their involvement in illegal gambling is confirmed, the interior secretary said.

No take policy

The police commanders admitted in the command conference that the "No Take Policy" covenant imposed by former PNP chief Director General Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr. was not effective in eradicating jueteng.

"While there was that 'no take policy,' the police commanders, their men and local government officials had an 'underground' agreement with gambling lords for them to continue to receive grease money," said Senior Supt. Dennis Nazaire, acting regional director of Region 3.

Nazaire also said the operations of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda had been revived in Central Luzon.

This prompted Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson to comment that the "no take policy was a mere rhetoric and only for show."

The Department of the Interior and Local Government has named Singson its one-peso-a-year adviser on jueteng.

Singson's exposé last year that he collected at least P400 million in jueteng protection money for the President led to Estrada's impeachment and ouster.

Another chance

Lina gave the police commanders, whose provinces were found to continue to host jueteng operations, another chance.

Effective yesterday, Lina said, the doctrine of command responsibility would be imposed.

He said a monitoring group within the police force would be formed to record the province where jueteng continues to operate.

On March 1, he said, a scoreboard would be installed in Camp Crame to show the progress of the provincial and regional commanders in eradicating jueteng.

"We will start on a clean slate. Everyone is being given a chance. This is the challenge that we pose, 'if we can't eradicate jueteng, we will not be able to solve bigger crimes such as the drug problem,"' Lina said.

Lina disclosed that the DILG was exploring the idea of filing charges of plunder and economic sabotage against jueteng lords named by Singson during the impeachment trial.

"Let us heed the call of President Macapagal that we should do everything to stop jueteng," Lina told the command conference.

Anti-trapo campaign

In Davao City, a group of residents and nongovernment organizations has launched a campaign endorsing senatorial and local candidates who can advance the cause of "good government and political transformation."

The campaign, dubbed "Sponsor 2001" or the "Search for Public Official/Nominees/Servants of the Republic," also seeks to raise voters' level of political consciousness.

The Lihuk Dabaw Movement of Citizens for Good Government and Political Transformation, which is spearheading the campaign, announced that it would campaign hard for candidates chosen by the group after rigid evaluation.

Vicente Guino-o, Lihuk Dabaw chair, said the purpose of the campaign was to stop traditional politicians from winning.

Lihuk Dabaw will form a group of 50 "judges," composed of residents with impeccable record on respectability, credibility and integrity, to evaluate each of the candidates for senatorial, congressional and local government posts.

Guino-o said the candidates would be evaluated based on their character, competence and commitment to public service.

Guino-o said Lihuk Dabaw would also evaluate a reelectionist's performance based on the quality and quantity of their executive or legislative programs.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla said the Church would also campaign against candidates perceived as "traditional politicians."

He said the Church would recommend the criteria to guide voters in choosing the right candidate.

Capalla said the Church was coming up with a system of rating each of the candidates based on intellectual competence, management skills, moral aptitude and trustworthiness. *With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pimentel blocks Alvarez posting as DENR chief

(From page A1)

Pimentel told President Macapagal-Arroyo in a letter.

"I do not see that happening under the proposed stewardship of Mr. Alvarez as DENR secretary," he added.

Pimentel disclosed in a news conference the contents of the letter that he sent the President on Valentine's Day.

Pimentel said he instead urged Ms Macapagal to appoint Alvarez to another "suitable Cabinet position that befits his multifaceted personality."

Pimentel told her that he considered Alvarez "a dear friend who has outstanding qualities" that would make him a "credit to your Cabinet."

He pointed out that Alvarez, then chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, had opposed a bill calling for a total ban on logging.

The Senate bill, he said, was eventually passed "over the objections of Alvarez."

The House of Representatives passed a similar bill. But conflicting versions of the two bills were never reconciled as the House contingent failed to show up at the bicameral conference committee.

Earlier reports said Alvarez would be appointed as DENR secretary after he was excluded in the senatorial slate of the administration party's People Power Coalition for the May 14 elections.

Last week, Pimentel vowed to block at the Commission on Appointments the confirmation of Cabinet officials with pending graft cases.

Alvarez

Alvarez, who spearheaded the signing of the impeachment complaint against ousted President Joseph Estrada, took exception to Pimentel's allegations.

"It's not black and white, good or bad . . . My view is shared by scientists," Alvarez said, referring to the raging debate on whether there should be a total or selective log ban.

"What he (Pimentel) wants is martial law of the forests. A total log ban should only be (imposed) on virgin forests, watersheds, not productive forests," he added in a telephone interview.

He said a selective log ban meant "sustainable development" of the country's forest resources.

"A total log ban would have unintended results—prices shoot up and a lot of underground illegal activities take place," he said.

Alvarez had been hounded for years by talk that he opted for selective logging because of his links to loggers.

In the interview, Alvarez described as "unethical" Pimentel's opposition to his appointment as DENR secretary.

He said he had served for 15 years in the Commission on Appointments and never did oppose any appointment until after a hearing.

"He (Pimentel) has already warned he'll block the appointment of certain people. We should be heard fully before he renders any decision," he said.

A few minutes after the interview, Alvarez again called up to say that Pimentel's letter could actually be "an endorsement" of his appointment as DENR secretary.

He noted that Pimentel's letter to Ms Macapagal urged her to heed the words of her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, who said that only qualified persons should be appointed to positions.

Alvarez said that he worked with the late President during the 1971 Constitutional Convention and that he praised him in his book on the ConCon.

German bank sees pro-Erap Congress

By Raul C. Dancel

A GERMAN financial giant Deutsche Bank AG said lawmakers loyal to Estrada might continue to dominate Congress after this year's elections, forcing Ms Macapagal to enter into compromises to push her economic agenda.

"Congress is still dominated by pro-Estrada members, and this may not change even after the elections. This means that President Arroyo will likely have to compromise when pushing through her reform agenda," Deutsche Bank, one of Europe's biggest banks, said in its latest "Emerging Markets Weekly" report.

Deutsche Bank added that Ms Macagapal herself was up for election in 2004, "meaning that there is a risk that 2003 fiscal efforts may be tainted by election promises."

"As always, political constraints may stand in the way of the best of intentions. And with elections in May, it may be late this summer before the government has an opportunity to present its agenda to (Congress)," it said.

Deutsche Bank said while political risks to the administration had ebbed, "political uncertainty has not dissipated entirely."

"Questions about the constitutionality of Vice President Arroyo's ascension to the presidency will likely surface periodically, although we do not think that they will present a serious challenge to her position, and concerns about coups and further disruptions by rebels in the southern provinces could crop up as well," it said.

Estrada claimed he "never resigned (as President), did not have any intention of resigning or even attempted any act amounting to resignation."

Deutsche Bank warned that investors would not accept "a further three-year delay in fiscal consolidation."

"Therefore, we would argue that the onus is on the administration to front-load tax reform and expenditure controls into the first two years of her term rather than postponing the hard work until after 2004," it said.

Deutsche Bank said consultations with government officials had left it "cautiously optimistic" that the new administration would be able to deliver on its promises to rebuild the Philippine economy.

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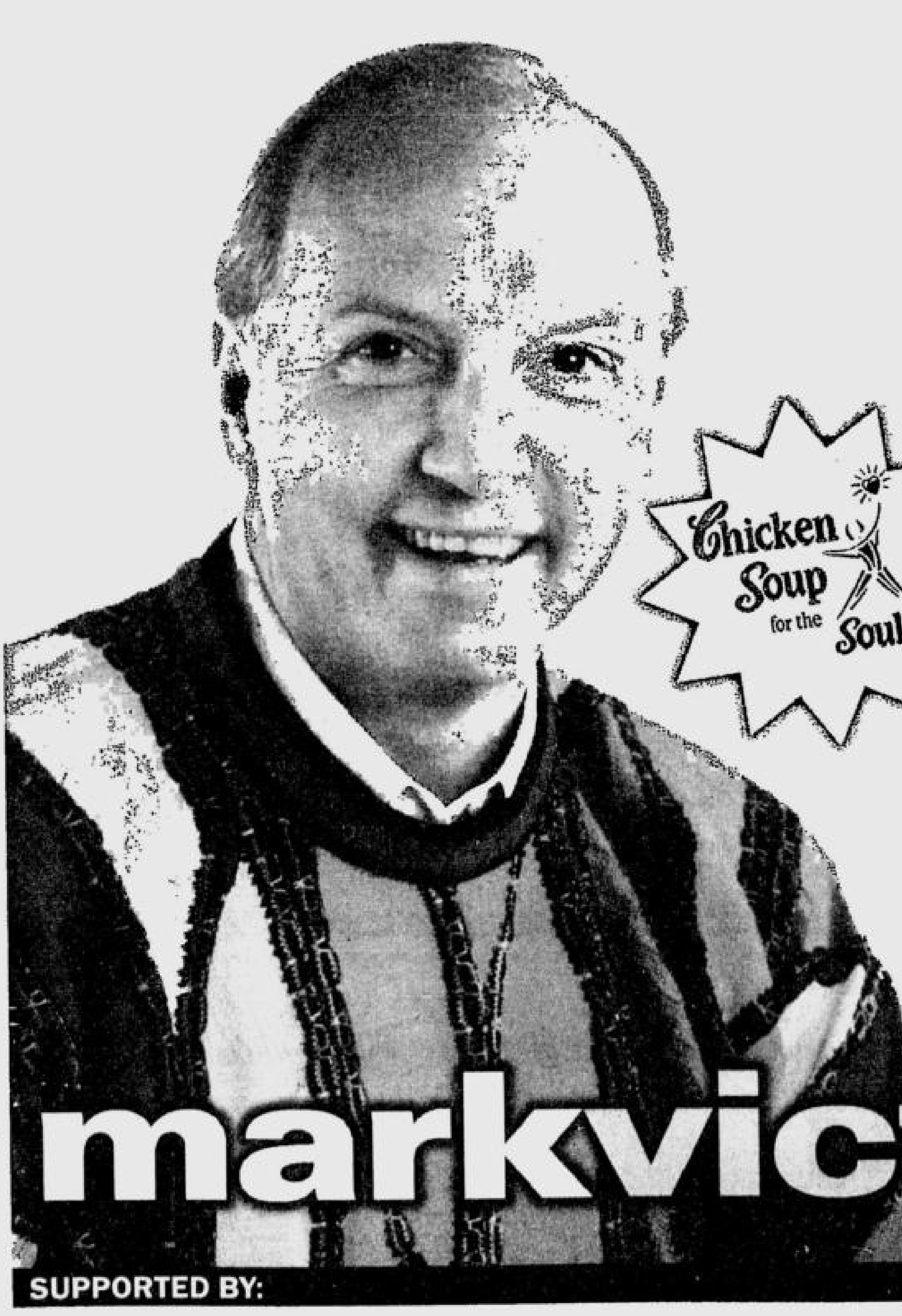

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Guingona skips 1st official trip

By D. Pazzibugan

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. may skip his first official trip abroad as foreign secretary since he expects to be preoccupied with the ongoing campaign.

Guingona reportedly expressed doubts that he could attend the one-day East Asia-Latin America ministerial meeting to be held in Santiago, Chile, on March 29 where the Philippines is one of the key players.

"He doubts if he can make it because it's too soon, and he has other duties because of the elections being the president of Lakas (party)," said Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. who had a meeting with Guingona yesterday.

Baja said the forum discusses trade, investments and other economic and political issues between East Asian nations and their counterparts in Latin America.

While Guingona has the prerogative to send other high-ranking officials on his behalf, Baja said the other foreign ministers "are asking for a ministerial level" representative for the Philippines.

He said Manila is regarded in the forum as the "conduit" between the Asian nations and the Latin American nations since the Philippines is the only Asian country with historical and cultural ties with Latin America.

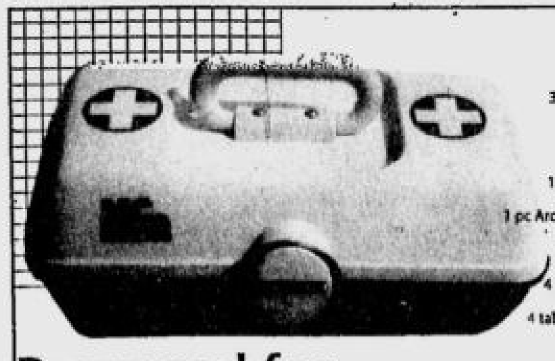
Baja also said Manila might host the next round of ministerial meeting since they expect that Manila will be elected coordinator for Asia.

Guingona, who was appointed concurrent foreign secretary when he was sworn in as vice president Monday, will be officially welcomed at the Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

He will meet not only with DFA officials and personnel but with the diplomatic corps as well.

In his meeting yesterday with Baja, Guingona disclosed that his priorities are to get more official development assistance for the war-ravaged Mindanao, to improve passport services and consular services to overseas Filipino workers.

For the past couple of days, Guingona's aides had been meeting with various DFA officials to familiarize themselves with the department.



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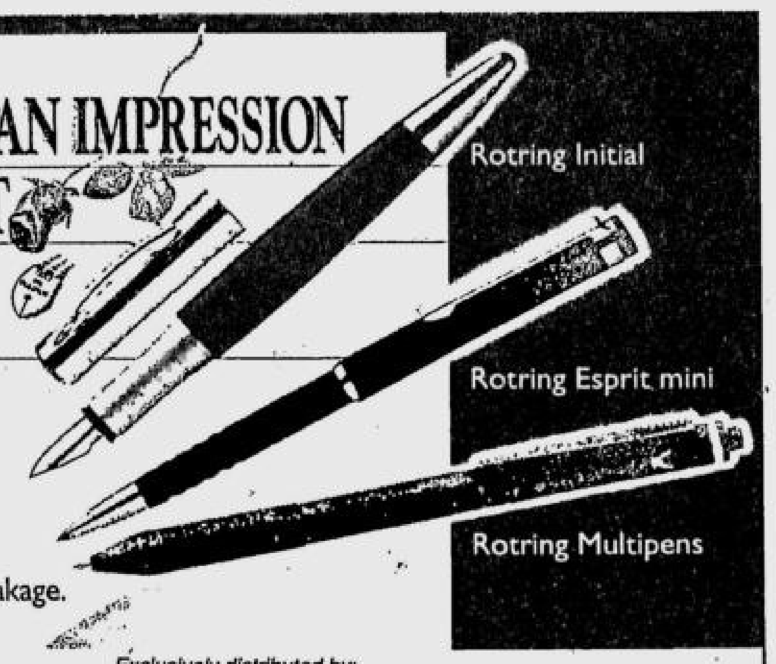

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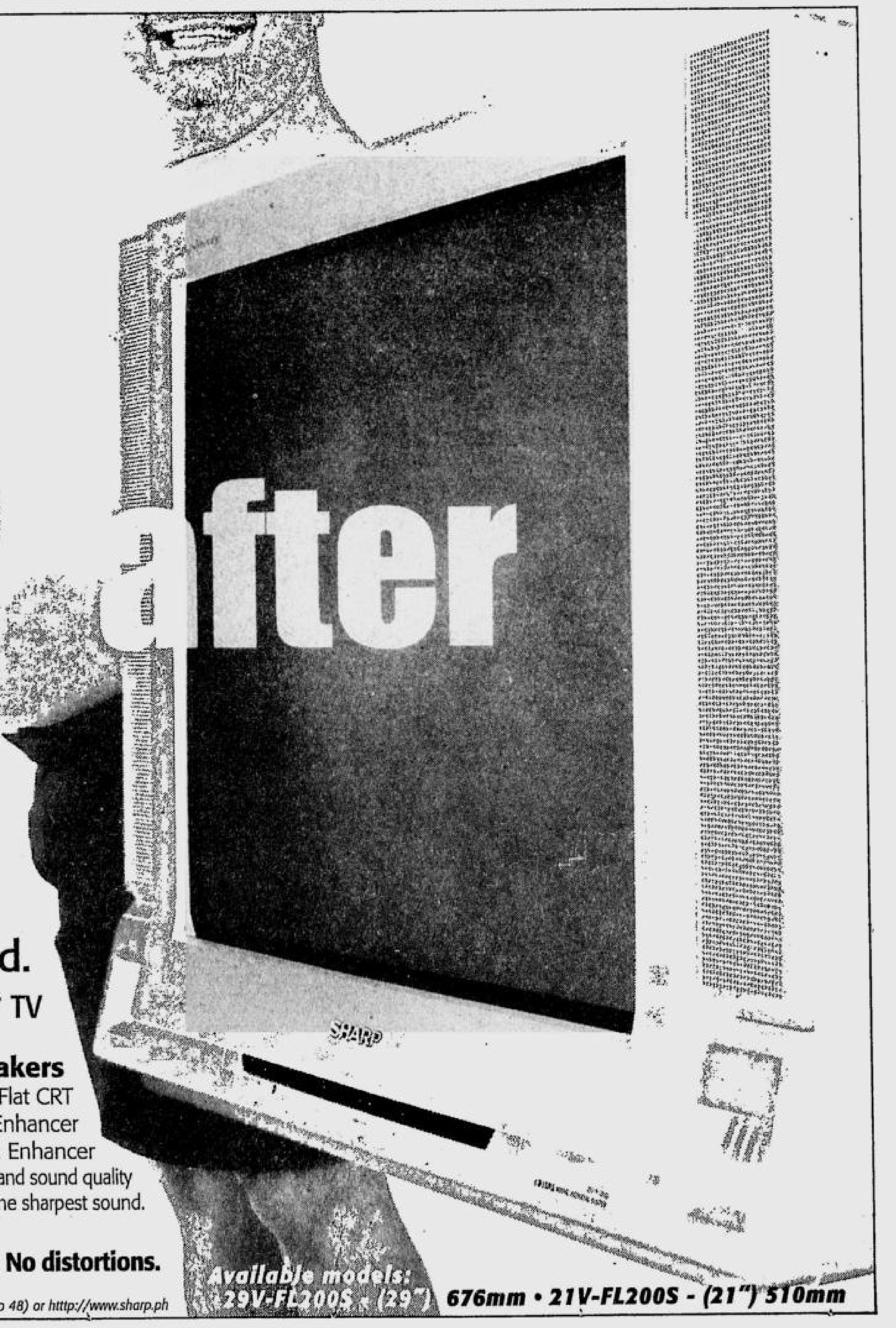

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Startling

EDITORIALS

IT'S startling to see the unabashed manner with which the giant ABS-CBN network is plugging the candidacy of its main man, Noli de Castro. The last we looked, you'd think he had died and his earthly remains were lying in state somewhere, so perfervid were the paeans sung and aired.

Not that the man himself took a passive stance and merely gave his network full run of his news program. Even before the start of the official campaign period he was right in there pitching, surfacing at various points in the archipelago in what appeared to be a dry run for earnest pressing of the flesh. And then, at the last possible minute, even if for all intents and purposes he was already hard on the stump, he coyly dropped teasers about his actual intentions. Will he or won't he seek a slot in the Senate? Stay tuned.

Incredible. And on prime-time news, too.

That the network's resources are formidable has never been in doubt. That it has used these resources to give De Castro not only visibility but cachet as well is clear. Indeed, its top leadership thought nothing of saying, in so many words: This man is our man. Imagine the implications—for the network and its interests—if he wins.

And victory for this man is not exactly a long shot if we are to go by empirical reckoning. The edge he now enjoys as a direct result of his long-running hold on the high-voltage stage of radio-TV can only be the envy of other candidates. (Ricardo "Dong" Puno, Joseph Estrada's former press secretary and, like De Castro, a former executive of the network, comes quickly to mind.) Other hopefuls similarly situated have taken that route, with roaring success in terms of a bumper crop of votes. As to whether they finally proved themselves worthy, there is the sad case of, say, Sen. Vicente Sotto to ponder.

Even President Macapagal was reported as having had her eye on De Castro for the now-ruling coalition's senatorial ticket by virtue of his supposed "winnability." The "W" word—stupid in terms of form and meaning—actually represented one of the major criteria by which the coalition's potential candidates were evaluated. Imagine that. In this day and age, after the disgrace of Estrada and his ilk.

As it ultimately turned out, De Castro didn't make it to the ticket. The resistance posed by certain partners of the coalition that purports to be the epitome of the people's yearning for change was said to have been volcanic. Still, that he was considered at all despite all the old, discredited ways that he represents cannot but give us pause. It just goes to prove the soundness of that French adage that says the more things change, the more they remain the same.

Poignant

THERE is something poignant in the regulations issued on Tuesday by the Commission on Elections on the use of campaign paraphernalia. Measurements are detailed, locations and materials specified. You'd think all the bases in the wide, wild playing field that is the May elections have been covered.

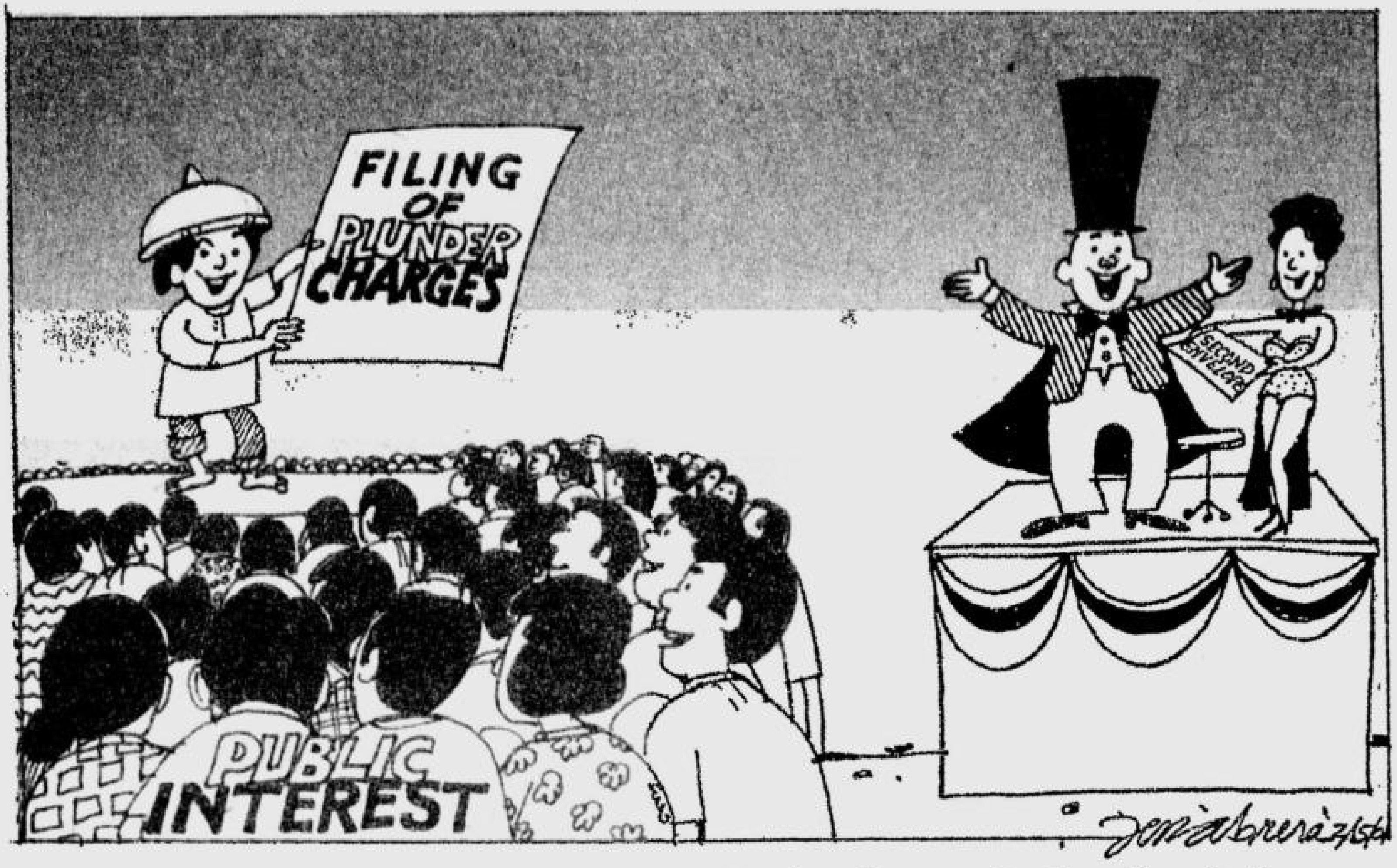
Leaflets, pamphlets, cards, decals and stickers, written or printed, cannot exceed so-and-so inches. Posters, whether made of paper, cloth or cardboard, can only be such-and-such feet. Streamers are a no-no if there are no public meetings or rallies to announce, and if there were, they can only be displayed a week before and 72 hours after the events. Pens, lighters, fans, athletic stuff and other doodads that may be used as campaign freebies are not allowed to be distributed.

There is no guideline on cash that may *sub rosa* be exchanged for votes.

It is unclear from reports whether punishment is forthcoming for violators, and if so, in what form. The reports did not indicate either what would be done to those who flout election provisions against premature campaigning.

To be sure, the canny campaigner may well ask how premature campaigning may be measured according to the law. If one who engaged in what appeared to be a campaign did not specify while doing so that one was actually running for an elective post, would one be liable?

The attentive observer who swears by the spirit, and not the letter, of the law would say yes. Can performers on the high-voltage stage of radio-TV with their sights trained on a powerful office conceivably be expected to do so?



Tanjuatco as Comelec chair doesn't look right

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YOU'D think that after the debacle of actor Joseph Estrada, other show-biz folk would take the hint and fade away in the sunset. But no, either because they're dense or optimists, a record number of show-biz people are throwing their hats into the political ring for the May elections. It must be getting harder and harder to earn a comfortable living from the movies.

Even superstar Nora Aunor is running for governor of Albay. She even broke away from her former partner, Joseph Estrada, and denounced him at Edsa, told him to resign and accused him of beating her up, all because, according to Erap himself, he did not support her candidacy.

Although they are not running for the same position, Nora will face another supersinger, Vice Gov. Imelda Papin, who is running for reelection in the rival ticket.

Governors Lito Lapid of Pampanga and Bong Revilla of Cavite are also running for reelection. So are Mayors Rey Malonzo of Caloocan, Vilma Santos of Lipa City, and Joey Marquez of Parañaque. Marquez's wife, actress Alma Moreno, is running for mayor of the neighboring town of Las Piñas, and Vilma's ever-loving husband Ralph Recto is running for senator in the administration ticket. Talk of budding political dynasties.

Makati Vice Mayor Edu Manzano wants to be a giant killer by running for mayor against former Mayor and MMDA Chair Jejomar Binay. But Quezon City Vice Mayor Connie Angeles will be content to remain as vice mayor. She will be the running mate of Ismael Mathay III, better known as "Chuck," the father of Ara Mina.

Jinggoy Estrada can no longer run for mayor of San Juan, so he has set his sights on being the congressman of San Juan and Mandaluyong in Congress. The trouble is Ronaldo Zamora, the former executive secretary of his father, also wants to get back his old congressional seat. And the incumbent, who has no intention of giving up his seat, is also from show biz, ex-actor Jose Mari Gonzales, better known as the father of bombshell Kring Kring Gonzales and the father-in-law of a Romualdez. Lately, he has become better known as the representative who slapped the House sergeant-at-arms.

Meanwhile, Jinggoy's close friends and fellow action stars Rudy Fernandez and Philip Salvador have been left in the lurch by the downfall of Jinggoy's father. Nevertheless, Daboy is going ahead with plans to run for mayor of Quezon City. Forced to good *na siya*. Salvador, on the other hand, who was being groomed to run for San Juan-Mandaluyong congressman, has been edged out by his erstwhile benefactor Jinggoy and Zamora. He plans to run for vice mayor, perhaps of San Juan, as the running mate of former basketball star and now Vice Mayor Philip Cezar.

An Estrada relative, meanwhile, actor Gary Estrada, will be content to run for a local position in far-off Quezon Province.

* * *

There was a time when India was also enamoured of movie stars-turned-politicians. India has a much bigger and robust movie industry than we have. Movie actors and actresses made much of their advantage and ran for elective office. Why not? Politicians are, after all, only acting. So, as professional actors and actresses, they have an advantage. Besides, they're better known and better looking than most politicians, and can sing, dance and speak better. So they were elected in droves in India.

After some time, however, almost all the movie stars in public office were defeated in election after election.

What happened? The Indians found out that their favorite movie stars, no matter how good in their roles in the movies, were utter failures in public service in real life. They found out that good looks didn't necessarily make good public officials.

Are we finally discovering that same truth? Not one of the officials from show biz have been outstanding in their jobs. On the contrary, some of them have been outstanding only in the corruption charges against them. The worst, of course, is Erap. Lapid, Marquez and Malonzo have cases pending against them. We don't know about the horde of councilors from show biz.

This is not a treatise against all show-biz politicians, but we have to admit that their collective record is nothing to be proud of, and Erap did the worst thing to them with his own record of corruption.

Have the Filipino voters learned their lesson? We will know this May.

* * *

I have nothing against former Rep. Emigdio Tanjuatco, but wouldn't it be questionable if he is appointed chair of the Commission on Elections? He may be the best for the position, but it would not look right. The people's faith in the Comelec, and therefore in the honesty and fairness of the elections, will be put under a cloud of doubt.

Tanjuatco is a politician, a *trapo* even. He is closely identified with the present administration. He is a relative of former President Corazon Aquino who is a principal supporter of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. There will be bitter contests between candidates of the administration and the new opposition this May. There will surely be protests after the polls, charges and countercharges of cheating. How will the Comelec resolve these controversies? Will the people feel secure that the Comelec can render fair judgment with a partisan politician sitting as its chair?

The Comelec needs a chair that would not be under even a hint of suspicion. Remember that some former Comelec chairs are Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Harriet Demetriou, whose integrity and fairness cannot be questioned. Let it not be said that the Macapagal administration broke this fine tradition. The spoils system has no place in such a constitutional body as the Comelec.

Give Tanjuatco another job if you must, but not at the Comelec.

As the pendulum swings

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

THERE is no apocryphal "Schindler's List, Part II" to ban, but we may get such censors long before we get the movie.

Yet there are few areas more contentious than obscenity laws, in part because as has been well said, one man's pornography is another man's poetry. Fly two hours south to Brunei and the entertainment you will see on television consists principally of Koran reading contests. Fly an hour farther south to Indonesia and you will come across fundamentalists denouncing decadent Western culture, Disney's "Bambi" not excluded, and who consider any female fashion but the sack titillatingly obscene.

Domestically, we have failed to resolve such problems because the debate has been dominated by the voices of the extremes rather than by those of the middle. The pendulum has swung back and forth with the excesses of each side. The moralists want to return us to the ridiculous movie codes of 50 years ago that prevented the bedroom scene in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" from being portrayed authentically. The libertarians want every expression, filthy or not, protected.

Needless to say, they are both wrong. There is a middle ground, one that moves neither too far ahead nor too far behind our ever-changing contemporary community standards. And those standards should be widely based, and not determined by who has the loudest voice or strongest amplifier.

To begin with, adults over 21 should be free to make their own judgments. Juveniles should not. That distinction should be strictly enforced. Obscene material should not be brandished about in street corners or sold to children. Half the problem would be solved if we could keep pornographic material from being peddled in the intersections of Metro Manila.

Nor should movie billboards of a salacious nature be displayed openly for any 6-year-old passing by to gaze at. Even advertising should be restricted. If a film is classified for adults only, producers should be put on notice that no photography should be advertised in newspapers, only words, on the ground that this mass media is accessible to children. Unfortunately, technology runs ahead of law and advertising on the Internet is a problem with no easy solution.

On the other hand, adults should be permitted to see anything they choose to, even material more risqué than is already currently available. Books and magazines should not be censored in any way or confiscated by self-appointed vice police. Playboy is not pornographic, but it should be a criminal act to sell it to a 10-year-old. Alternatively, adults should be free to buy what material they want, as they do in Europe and America.

In brief, the distinction between adults and juveniles, which has disappeared to nothingness today, needs to be restored. And churches should perform their function of coaxing their believers to follow a higher ethical standard, and not simply try passing the enforcement of morality over to the state. If churches cannot hold their flock to ethical behavior, the State certainly cannot. The church should stop acting like it were the state, and the state, like it were the Church. "Noli Me Tangere."

The task of the new chair of the censors, Nick Tiongson, is therefore as unenviable as that of his predecessors. He will always have hounds of differing stripes nipping at his heels. Yet he must resist the temptation to run. He must instead turn, and become master of the hounds. It is a contentious job, and we wish him luck.

* * *

Our new Vice President has, like some of his predecessors, assumed office as secretary of foreign affairs, or in the language of the bureaucracy, SECFORAF. Even those who have strongly disagreed with him in the past acknowledge that Tito Guingona is, above all, a kind and decent man. Those traits are not inconsequential for high office. He is also principled and able. It is a sad commentary on our current political system that under it such a man didn't have much chance of election and reached the No. 2 spot only through appointment. This strengthens the arguments for a parliamentary system, if it does not weaken that for the presidential.

Although he has not been exactly welcomed with open arms by the diplomats at the Department of Foreign Affairs, there is every chance that they will soon change their minds. Having a strong, politically connected secretary is an advantage. It permits him to defend the interests not only of the republic, but also of the career service, while at the same time providing the discipline to the DFA that only a disinterested outsider can bring.

Vice President Guingona can help provide the balance between having a foreign service that is too inbred and having one that is staffed by political hacks: a consul has been famously defined as a person who, having lost an election, is given a job on the condition he leaves the country. But the diplomatic service of the republic would also be well served by able outsiders. There is a place for political appointees, provided they are first rate.

It will also be refreshing to have a foreign secretary who does not strut sitting down. Guingona masks ability behind such modesty. He has had extensive experience in both the legislative and executive branches of government. He needs to gear the DFA toward strengthening our economy. He needs to nurture our maturing relationship with the United States and Europe while keeping close ties with the rest of Asean. Then there are the complex issues with Japan and China, our overseas workers, trade, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the crisis next door in Indonesia. He will have not one priority, but many. He inherits a bulging briefcase. Fortunately, he is strong enough to carry it.

DENR chief has to stand up to the politicos

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

MANY civic groups and leaders from across the country have endorsed Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez for environment secretary, citing his key role in crafting almost all the crucial legislation on the environment, such as the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act. Among those who have come out openly for him are Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, Cagayan Bishop Diosdado Talamayan, Bro. Eddie Villanueva of the Jesus is Lord Movement and Msgr. Nico Bautista of Sulong Edsa. Among the environmental groups supporting him are the People's Task Force for the Bases' Clean-Up, the Recycling Movement of the Philippines Foundation Inc., the Sustainable Ecosystems Foundation Inc., the United Antiqueños under Gideon Javier, Evelio's son and the Billion Trees Foundation.

* * *

To this columnist, who has known Alvarez since our UP days, however, perhaps his most vital credentials are first, he knows the issues affecting the environment, which is more than just planting and saving trees; and second, he has the political stature to stand up to the politicians, many of them of the warlord variety, who may themselves be violating environmental laws or who are in cahoots with businessmen. It is no secret that many people who have operated the biggest logging concessions in this country were politicians, and that all too often, environmental clearance certificates (ECCs) were granted to politicos or their dummies, even if their projects did not conform with requirements, simply because the DENR people could not say no to the politicians. The reality is that the DENR is the most susceptible to being influenced by politicians among all the line departments.

* * *

Because Alvarez came from the Senate and the House and was agrarian reform secretary in the Aquino years, he knows all the politicians' machinations and he is expected to stand up to pressure from them, unlike the aspirants from the NGOs. Anyhow, if he fails to do this, there would be enough NGOs to demand his ouster. Moreover, Alvarez has the international stature to secure funds for environmental development because he has been involved in this cause for decades. His expertise was recognized by the Washington-based Climate Institute which gave him the prestigious Public Policy Achievement Award, the only non-Western awardee.

I hope the President has no second thoughts about giving the DENR post to Alvarez.

* * *

Executive Secretary Rene de Villa has said his new office has "more mine fields" than the military where he came from. But he perhaps ran into more mine fields from the media women he met over lunch last week in Makati, as he was peppered with questions ranging from, "Was it true that you saved Ping Lacson's life?" to "Are you really the 'Big President' and Gloria the 'Little President?'" The media women, who often spoke at the same time, queried him on the charge of Carina Agarao and Tessie Ang-See that PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza had links to criminal elements; on Ms Macapagal's work style; and whether he thought she'd make a good President. Is she beholden to the military? Is First Gentleman Mike Arroyo meddling in the Palace?

Poor Rene could barely eat his pasta with all the queries. But the media women were merely echoing perceptions about De Villa's undue power in the Palace. Last Sunday, at a lunch hosted by President Macapagal at her parents' North Forbes place, wherein the Edsa Coalition senatorial candidates were presented to civil society leaders, UP chaplain Fr. Robert Reyes queried Ms Macapagal about the perception that De Villa and former President Ramos were in charge, since their people were put in critical posts. Father Reyes' blunt query reportedly stunned both Ms Macapagal and De Villa.

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To the media women, De Villa explained the much-vaunted selection process and how he came to the Palace. Among Ms Macapagal's first four appointees—Paul Dominguez, Vicky Garchitorena, Alberto Romulo and himself—De Villa said he was the last to accept a post. He asked for 24 hours to consult his wife, Monette, and their kids, and they wanted him to stay out of government. But when the decision was made to accept the Palace post, the family stuck by him.

De Villa came to know Ms Macapagal casually when he chaired the Pinatubo Commission and she headed the Senate oversight committee. During the months prior to Edsa Dos, the anti-Estrada group met almost daily.

Is he a Ramos man? Said De Villa: "I like to think I'm my own man."

On the selection process, nominations go through the group headed by Presidential Management Staff Chief Garchitorena, but De Villa stressed that when Ms Macapagal says, "I like so and so to become so and so," then "that's that." But the selection group can be tough and there were two nominees for Cabinet posts that it said it couldn't approve. In fact, De Villa recalled with a laugh that at one point, Ms Macapagal was heard musing, "I thought I could have my own recommendations."

* * *

The perception outside may be that Ms Macapagal vacillates a lot, but De Villa finds her quite decisive, very hands-on and businesslike, able to discuss a wide range of issues from garbage to Mindanao. De Villa said the first meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac), a consultative body created by a bill authored by then Senate Chief Bert Romulo which Ms Macapagal revived, was "very impressive" and they were able to achieve a lot in a very short time. He said Ms Macapagal wants her Cabinet members to do a lot of consultations, a combination of formal and informal work. She expects them to know their job well, and to bring to her issues and concerns that need her decision, but she does not want them going to her all the time with their problems.

On her work style: "*Sobra ang sipag*. For as long as she has not turned in for the night, she is available for consultations."

On Mike Arroyo: "We have no experience with him. I have not seen him in the Palace."

Will she make a good President? He stressed "Honest commitment to the people who put her there."

* * *

De Villa said that because the government wants to trim down the budget deficit to P145 billion, there is a great need for austerity and belt-tightening. But he assured that there will be no "massacre" of government employees. Because of this deficit, the BIR and customs have "suddenly become the most important agencies in government." He said the first weeks have been devoted to consolidating "our political, security and social forces and the volunteer groups supporting Ms Macapagal." The first group with which Ms Macapagal had a dialogue after becoming President was Kompil II, and the second were the students.

Health's biggest challenge

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"LIKE sex?" asks the headline of an ad for Marie Stopes International, Australia.

The point of the ad, I guess, is that everybody likes sex, and would want to enjoy more of it, if only sex didn't bring with it countless complications, including the major complication of pregnancy. Which may explain why the ad goes on: "So do approximately 350 million couples worldwide who would like, but cannot access contraceptive services."

Those opposed to contraception may not see why it should be a problem. If a couple don't want sex to result in a pregnancy but they cannot access contraceptive services, the natalists would probably say, then they simply shouldn't have sex. But we all know this is easier said than done. After all, who doesn't like sex? And I am sure not even God willed that every act of sex, within marriage or outside it, should result in a pregnancy.

Sexual activity is a human right. It is also a human need. It is one of the few things that we can enjoy for free (even if some choose to pay or charge for it). And by indulging in it, we assure that the human race does not die out.

But sex is also a human responsibility, because every act of sex has consequences. Which is why sexual and reproductive health is equally a human right, if we believe that every human being has the right to a healthy body and sound mind.

* * *

THIS may be the reason medical personnel, researchers, activists, policymakers, government officials, and men, women and young people from all over Asia and the Pacific are meeting here today for the Asia-Pacific Conference on Reproductive Health (APCRH). In this first major international gathering of reproductive health professionals from throughout the region, they will be coming together "for an open sharing of information and experiences, exposure to the latest research findings, learning, and creative problem-solving." The meeting thus has potential "to sow the seeds for far-reaching changes and more responsive and humane RH programmes in the next millennium."

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the keynote speaker at the conference's opening at the Philippine Trade Training Center. I'm hoping that before this constituency of health professionals and their concerned clientele, the President will take the opportunity to announce who the new health secretary will be.

And of course I'm hoping that the new appointee will be one acceptable to all concerned sectors in the field of health. And when you think about it, since health is such a basic concern, that means all of us, essentially. I also hope the new DOH chief will make a real difference in the way health is promoted, advocated and delivered in this country.

* * *

ACTUALLY, the DOH was one of the few bright spots in the Erap administration. And this was largely because he allowed Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez and his team to proceed to "reengineer" the DOH in the wake of devolution without too much interference.

Adopting a Health Sector Reform Agenda, the DOH under Romualdez sought to address the inequity of access to appropriate quality health care services in the country. While the few who could afford it enjoyed the benefits of modern medical and other health services, the poor had to settle for second-class care. Through such programs as the Sentrong Sigla Movement, which sought to improve the quality of health service delivery by government centers and hospitals, as well as an improved health insurance system, the DOH was on the way to improving the access of the poor to quality health care.

In the controversial field of reproductive health, Estrada wisely let the proper policy-making bodies (including Neda) set the priorities and programs, then protected them from the potential fall-out. (By this time, too, the Church had become so estranged from the Estrada administration that it apparently felt lobbying against family planning was futile.)

Protecting the gains of the Health Sector Agenda is now a primary concern among the more senior health officials. Unfortunately, it is the noises being made by those adversely affected by reengineering that are being picked up.

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IN A PAPER titled, "Still Looking for a Champion," the so-far leaderless DOH personnel assert: "The recent political changes serve as a (crucial) test for the HSRA if its basic principles and early gains can survive the challenges of political transition and eventually deliver what it promised to the Filipino people. The coming days will show if the HSRA was indeed tenable by continuing to move forward even before it has set targets to set the process on an irreversible momentum for reform."

Whoever is chosen to head the DOH, the biggest challenge before that person should be to see if he (or she) is "big" enough to set aside petty jealousies and pick up from where the previous leadership left off. You can't ask for a better way to start.

Politics and compassion

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I WENT to two wakes last Sunday. One was for a 78-year-old nun and the other was for 48-year-old slain labor leader Felimon "Popoy" Lagman, alleged former top gun of the hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade. One was given a sweet send-off—white drapes, white orchids, a sighing violin—befitting one who had lived her vowed life quietly and well. The other had an all-red wake—red flags, shirts and streamers loudly proclaiming the cause that he had lived for and mourning his violent end.

On the glass lid of Popoy's coffin were four bullets, two packs of Marlboro cigarettes and assorted small things. Because I am an *usisera*, and despite the long line forming behind me, I furtively went through the things and found what looked like a necklace with a wooden cross attached to it. Popoy wore that? Prominently standing on top of Popoy's coffin were two black books, Marx's "Capital" and the other with Lenin on its cover. Rage, rage was the theme.

Although I understood the rage I did not understand the way Popoy pursued his cause. Neither had I understood fully the ways of his detractors from whom he broke away. I had spoken to both sides, particularly on the 1996 issue of the P281-million Freedom Island-Amari deal which Popoy's group brokered on behalf of thousands of squatter families forced to move out of Freedom Island to Cavite. After that, Popoy's group split in two. Human rights lawyer Haydee Yorac, UP Prof. Maris Diokno and Sr. Christine Tan had to be called in to referee. The issue: power, politics, *pera*.

Last Monday, Popoy's new political workers' party was launched at the UP Bahay ng Alumni where he was gunned down. At sunset, he was given a rousing farewell not seen since the 1986 burial of another labor leader, lawyer Rolando Olalia, who was murdered in an even more brutal manner. I wanted to be at Popoy's funeral but we had an INQUIRER meeting that ended at midnight, when the next day's INQUIRER, it's front page oozing with red, was being hauled out.

Bright and bold last Tuesday's front page might have been, but it left me with a sadness I could not explain. Someone killed, someone died. Ideology, politics, power, money maybe, had something to do with it.

Above the photo of Popoy's coffin and red-shirted pallbearers was that of the newly proclaimed senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition. Most of them I will vote for. But will they deliver?

Monday was the last day for candidates running in the May elections to register. Footage, sound bytes and news space on them had to compete with Popoy's burial. Political groups are again coming to life, transmogrifying, promising better times, with many candidates falling all over themselves to ride on the crest of the recent People Power euphoria.

I was assigned to do a back-up story for the topic of civil society next week and among the subjects I read up on was the politics of compassion. Yes, there is such a thing (just as there is a book titled "The Politics of Lying"). Politics, as we have known it, has been associated with power and position and, last, people—the needy ones who deliver the votes and to whom services are not delivered. Alas, politics, from the Greek word for citizen, has been confused with politicians and elections. So much passion and little compassion.

I like the idea of compassion arising from interconnectedness and interdependence that ecologists speak about, not from pity that moves the powerful politicians to reach down to the powerless. You know politicians who don't get it by the catchphrases they use. "Doktora ng Masa" which the ousted President Estrada coined for his wife Loi is an example. Everything in the name of the *masa*.

But compassion is not pity or sentimentalism, it springs from shared experience. Shared pain, shared joy, therefore shared action ("justice-making") and celebration. I don't know if there is one word in Filipino for compassion but if there is none, there probably is more than one, among them, "*pakikiisa*," loosely translated as "being one with." That is why someone wrote that you may call God love, you may call God goodness, but the best name for God is compassion. She/He became one with the wretched of the earth.

Wrote the controversial Matthew Fox: "Compassion is a spirituality of meat, not milk; of adults, not children; of love, not masochism; of justice, not philanthropy. It requires maturity, a big heart, a willingness to risk and imagination. Yet for many persons with good spiritual intentions spirituality has meant either meditative disciplines or introverted contemplation. Compassion moves beyond these beginning stages of spiritual searching to a fuller stage of dialectical living that experiences both cosmic contemplation and local pain and then gives birth to alternative healing of that pain."

(To a reader from Infanta who wrote in beautiful penmanship to say that the INQUIRER "keeps her attuned and in touch with life" and the outside world, that quote's for you. She worries about "the poor who are being used.")

I am writing this while the TV is showing footage of politicians pledging their undying concern for the teeming masses. I choke. I would have felt worse if not for the e-mailed letters reacting, or rather, responding, to the front-page Sunday feature about a young married couple who have been bringing hot lunch to poor children at a parking lot every Sunday for the last three years, rain or shine. (They didn't want to be identified and allowed me to photograph only their backs.)

I was with them two Sundays ago and I thought: here is compassion quietly at work, compassion at its simplest and purest. No fanfare. This is all we could do for now, they told each other and their kids, let's do it. They can't afford to put up a political party or run for office. They're still saving for a home of their own. But they can't wait to get connected.

Love@theInter.net

Never seen thee nor touched thee
But known thee with all my heart.
—Quixote's song to Dulcinea

YOUNGBLOOD

Anna A.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

ABOUT a year ago my friend May gave me a call that caused me some concern.

"Anna, I'm in love," she said. I was about to tune out of the conversation, since that was about the millionth time she was telling me about some new guy, when she added, "I met him on the Internet."

That's what threw me off. I ordered her to say it again. "He works with computers. He's about 30, and lives in Florence. His name's Alessandro but his chat name is Alex, which is the English/American version of..."

I was speechless. Next thing I knew, May was coming over to show me a picture that Alex had sent through e-mail. She was also coming with a slice of *tiramisu*, which he had sent as well, ordered through the aforementioned technology and paid for with his credit card.

Between bites, she said that he had sent her money ("To fix the computer, after I mentioned that it wasn't working well. How sweet—I didn't even ask for it,") since they were "practically married." And then she blurted out: "You know, Anna, he has cancer. He's dying."

When she left holding the laminated picture of her virtual fiancé ("Doesn't he look like Tom Cruise?" she asked me) on the *tiramisu* plate, my head was whirling. Money? Cancer? Florence? Internet?

The idea of love through the Internet had never failed to make me laugh before and then make a self-assured "Thank God I'm not desperate," complete with eyes rolling and arms raised heavenward. The Internet Sweetheart is the newest version of the Sentimental Pen Pal and the Whispering Phone Pal, but the classic and current models sound equally ludicrous. How does one say it, "I'm falling virtually in love"?

"You've Got Mail" was cute, and I liked it, but I liked it only as a movie. I didn't take it to heart, and I expected no one would, either. Meg Ryan herself said that love on the Internet couldn't possibly happen.

But then I have seen it happen before. My best friend in grade school fell in love over the Internet as well. After a series of electronic love letters, they met, and what started out as virtual became real: they got married last July.

Love is hard enough to find in real life, probably because it's even harder to know if what we do find is the real thing. "Most people," Jose Garcia Villa once said, "are not potential lovers, although everyone grew up with Hollywood movies...Because in the general environment, everybody meets a man or woman and they think they fall in love...[but love] is an illusion, and very hard to find. Very hard to find."

Whitney Otto wrote in "How to Make an American Quilt": "Now think about…the ideal lover union. It is as uncommon as any wondrous thing. Yet everyone *expects* to find it in her life, thinks it will happen (in a matter of time), feels entitled…If it was so commonplace, why would artists find themselves obsessed by it, churning out sad paintings and torch songs?"

I dissected May's love life and tried to prove that this Italian dude was a dud. After all, I could create a totally new me on the Net. I could send a touched-up picture of myself, call myself "Eternal Love," claim that I go to the south of France on weekends, and compose love letters for my Austrian bloke to keep love burning. If I could do this, so could Alex. He worked with computers, and for all I know, he was researching on the time span for Internet courtship to turn into Internet love.

He was also, as he claimed, on the other side of the world. Now, you know how easy it is to lie when the one you're lying to is not in front of you (e.g. "Ma, don't worry. I'm just in Tina's house. She just turned the music up *very loud.*").

If someone wants to con somebody else who will never find out, he might as well go all the way. But is this why Alex took the trouble of sending May *tiramisu* and 250,000 lira?

But the cancer story either pushes the envelope or makes the whole thing rational. He could be someone, much like some people on the news, who preys on gullible girls like my friend (and my friend is a little more gullible than most). Or, he could be genuinely sick with cancer, who hoped to find, before he dies, the girl of his dreams, anywhere, everywhere, and finally found her on the Internet.

My grade school friend's situation was easier to swallow. She has met the guy, and though they might be young and rash, the words of my mom come to mind:

"You'll never know. You could meet the guy on a Saturday night and want to marry him Sunday morning." Well, yes, if Ben Affleck asked me to marry him an hour after we met, I'd rush him to the church.

Two weeks ago, May called me up to say that Alex was dead. His best friend sent the news by e-mail. She was crying, and, just like the last time she called me, I couldn't find a word to say to her. All the words were hers: "I loved him so much. I loved him so much! Why is it like this? I finally found the guy I was going to live with for the rest of my life, and suddenly he is gone…"

I don't know if this Alex ever really existed, and I suppose I never will. But if he wasn't real, May's pain was and so was her love for him. "I never felt so—complete," she said. "It was as if he had filled the void in my life."

I guess the Internet is a weird place to find love. But so is everywhere else; it has become increasingly harder to believe that we can find love in the midst of many loveless earthly events. But everywhere else is where everyone is looking, and if anyone can look anywhere for some, can't he or she do the same thing on the Internet? Love filled the void in my friend's heart, and along with millions of others, their connections filled the void in cyberspace.

I think I finally have to believe in this Alex on the Internet, because no matter how cynical anyone is, one still hopes for an Alex of one's own. One always hopes that he is out there, real and reachable, even if it takes a modem and several megabytes to find him.

Anna A., 20, has a bachelor's degree in literature.

THEY SAID

Call for heroes

"Every graduate should be a hero, someone who could tell the truth."

—Education Secretary Raul Roco seeking help from church workers to build a spiritual infrastructure

Sign of sacrifice

"Aside from getting revenues, selling these properties will give a very clear signal to the Filipino people that this administration means business and is willing to sacrifice."

—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the sale of valuable assets

Loi's constituency

"Loi Ejercito might still be able to win since there is still a portion of our electorate who is not yet capable of making a rational judgment on candidates."

—Prof. Amado Mendoza on the former first lady's plan to run for senator

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Fountain of youth

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SOMEONE asked me half-jokingly recently if I didn't worry that being angry in my columns would make me look old.

What can I say? I am not particularly vain about my looks, though some people actually think they are reasonably pleasing. I have not entertained a career in television, despite serious importuning from eager readers who cannot seem to appreciate the concept of rising (or in this case falling) to a level of incompetence. Though while at this, I do wish TV personalities would discover the concept of rising to a level of incompetence themselves. I heard Noli de Castro's (melo)dramatic announcement that he had decided to forsake television for the Senate, and that was the first thought that leaped to mind: television's loss might not be the legislature's gain. I would have praised him to high heavens if he had decided, despite knowing he had a foot in the door of the Senate, to continue to serve the public through broadcasting. Not all that beckons should be heeded—or one would be a regular patron of the red light district.

I write, and it does not require me to look good, or young. Writing is all I know how to do. It is all I really want to do. Right now, I'm still working at being able to do it well.

But to go back to my half-jester's question: Well, I guess my genes have not been kind to me in the youthful looks department. I will turn 50 this year, but as my friends told me when I appeared on ABS-CBN during the last night of People Power II with Joker Arroyo, Pepe Miranda and Teddy Boy Locsin, I looked older than every one of them. I do not think tinting my hair will improve anything. All I can see, as far as that goes, are the characters in the impeachment trial who, to a man or woman (Joker is the notable exception), sported jet-black or auburn hair. Though I sincerely admire some of them, I cannot say that I greatly admire their hairdo.

Maybe being angry has something to do with it. I remember a high school teacher who kept telling us that it took only a few muscles of the face to smile and hundreds to frown. I did wonder if that were so why we shouldn't frown more often since that would mean exercising more muscles in the face and so keeping them toned. But I wasn't that *pilosopo* in school (that would come later, with being a columnist) and besides I needed good grades to keep my scholarship. Besides, too, my teacher, faced with a class that perennially refused to rise to his expectations, ended up little practicing what he preached.

I have friends who are New Agers who say that anger produces stress, and stress produces cancer, heart disease and a decrepit appearance. Maybe. But I don't know that I am particularly attracted to their alternative; I do not always see the life in their lifestyle. I keep remembering every time I hear their advice what an iridologist told me when I consulted him about my gout. Ah, he said, but gout is so easy to cure. All you have to do is sleep early, not drink intoxicants (including beer and wine), and avoid vexations to the spirit. What can I say? I still have my gout, and I am—or look—much older than when I consulted him, but I am happy. Such as one can be happy being happy.

Maybe being angry has something to do with aging faster. But that is only so physically. Or, more importantly, since I do not attribute mine to it, that is only so about certain types of anger. I do think there is anger, and there is anger. There is an unhealthy kind of anger and a healthy kind of anger. The unhealthy kind is the one that comes from selfishness or envy or frustration. You are angry because the job or the position was given to somebody else and not to you. You are angry because other people are getting ahead but not you. You are angry because you want to be rich and powerful but do not have the talent or luck to be so.

I agree: that is a recipe for getting really old. I'd even go farther and say that is a recipe for dying before your time, or being dead while alive. It makes for a lot of bitterness and ulcers. It literally eats up inside, which makes you look like a battery in an advanced state of corrosion. I have frustrations, too. I do get angry sometimes at not having the money to be free to write the things I want to write, preferably in some beach or mountain in the company of gout-producing substances. But that is not generally the stuff of my angers. It is at least not the stuff that fuels my columns.

My columns are based on another kind of anger, which I maintain is the healthy kind. It is not the selfish kind, or not completely so: I do get angry that my children will live in a country being messed up by people who plan to send their own to America after they have done so. This is the country of my choice, and I hope my children's, too. But I should think there is something healthy even in that kind of selfishness, too.

That is not a recipe for getting old. On the contrary, that is a recipe for getting young. That is a recipe for exercising the muscles of the heart (and mind) and so keeping them toned. That is a recipe for discovering the things that keep the youth afire: idealism, enthusiasm, seeing the world as it can be.

I myself did not think of it in this way until a couple of interviewers asked me in separate interviews if I thought when I began that my column would be widely read, or especially claim the attention of the young. I answered—completely truthfully—that as far as I knew I just wrote about things that grabbed me by the guts, or balls, whichever is the better residence of fervor. Which quite incidentally is the advice I always give to budding writers: Write only about the things you know and feel very strongly about. You write about things you do not know or feel passionately about, you will communicate your ignorance and disinterestedness to your readers. I wrote only about the things I knew and felt very strongly about, which included vinyl records and rotten officials, the city of Naga and the city of fools, Andre Agassi and Joseph Estrada (now Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), and, lo and behold, the young (and the old) would exclaim I took the words right out of their mouths.

I look at the mirror and I often wonder at the face that stares at me from there. I do not feel a year older than when I first wrote and first made love, not necessarily in that order of importance, even though I limp every so often from the effects of wine and beer, now in that order of preference. What can I say? There are advantages to being where I am: I can enjoy listening to Puccinni as much as to Cooky Chua.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

Exhibiting women's bodies

TALK about sex with artists? I was incredulous when Rochit Tanedo first requested me to give such a talk. After all, aren't artists supposed to be wise to the ways of the world?

Seated on the floor at the Boston Art Gallery, Junice Melgar (a physician working with the NGO Likhaan) and I spent several hours with the artists. Wise they were, but they sure had a lot of questions about sexual anatomy, family planning, childbirth, HIV/AIDS. And when Junice brought out rubber anatomical models, the women artists became even more animated as they rediscovered the many intimate corners and crevices of women's bodies.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The whole exercise was part of an innovative project handled by Tanedo's Creative Collective Center to inspire artists to produce works around the theme "Who Owns Women's Bodies?" Three months after our talk (not too long a gestation period when you compare it to human pregnancies), the artists came up with their pièces de résistance. We talked with a small group but the idea seemed to have caught fire, with 30 artists contributing to an exhibit that has gone through Lipa and Vigan and is now in Manila at the Cultural Center.

I wish I had the space to describe all the works of art. Each piece in the exhibit has its own message, its own style, but they are all provocative, depicting and challenging the stereotypes that reduce women's bodies to receptacles for reproduction and objects of male lust.

Judy Freya Sibayan transforms the body into a gallery of scapulars, a symbol of "cloistered piety." Karen Flores' "Sumalangit, Sumalupa" juxtaposes different images—the Virgin Mary, a bowl of chili peppers, dishes, spoon and fork—to show how women's bodies are used, as in the Filipino word for having sex with a woman, "*gamit*."

Agnes Arellano's "Red Carcass" is one of the most powerful pieces in the exhibit, showing a female stripped of its reproductive parts, an indictment of the medicalization of women's bodies. But there's more to the piece than a protest against medicine: the woman has hoofs instead of feet, which gives new meaning to the term workhorse.

Yes, there are breasts, breasts and more breasts, but they are very different from the ones you find in saccharine mother-and-child paintings, or in airbrushed photographs of pin-up magazines. Cecil de Leon's "Mga Susong Maalindog" consists of terracotta female breasts. I can't resist quoting from the exhibit brochure's graphic description: "tender, succulent, luscious, upright, lactiferous" and some showing "lumps and bumps" as breasts in the real world go. Close to De Leon's exhibit was Sandra Torrijos' "Biyahe sa Kalawakan" with dozens of coconut shells spread out on a floor.

Traditional art forms are used in several pieces. I particularly liked the simplicity of Lia Torralba Tayag's *burnay*, traditional Iloko pottery, transformed into a womb and labeled "Ang Pinagpilian," a choice.

Some of the works peek, somewhat ominously, into the present future. Torrijos' "Virus Inside" is a metal jacket with appliques made out of various pharmaceutical products. Al Manrique's "Urban Legend No. 80" has a mysteriously veiled woman, which he says depicts gender on the Net, shifting space, shifting consciousness.

An installation exhibit by Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, which unfortunately was put up only for Manila, shows a cluttered home with toys, clothes, dishes strewn around, a TV set turned on but signed off. The exhibit's title is borrowed from that 1960s melodramatic song, "Who's Going to Clean the Toilet?"

The installation exhibit was clearly a favorite among the many students who came to the opening. Certainly, the exhibit can be more effective than a lecture about gender issues: What, indeed, would happen to our homes and to our bodies, without the women? And why should it be that way?

The exhibit isn't there to answer all the questions about women's bodies, but they do hint at what could be if people—women and men—could shed off their imposed roles and masks as Jose Tence Ruiz suggests in his "Balat-kami, Balat-kayo." Curator Imelda Cajipe Endaya's "Katawan Ko, Pasya Ko" synthesizes the many images of what could be, by showing magnified body parts including fallopian tubes reaching out as a clenched fist.

The exhibit which runs till March 31 at the Cultural Center's Bulwagang Juan Luna, is in a way an extension of the Asia-Pacific Congress on Reproductive Health which is being held at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) this week. While the congress will have a lot of people talking; the exhibit allows for quiet but hard reflection.

* * *

This is as good a time as any to say "*Salamat*" to Rosalia Sciortino, who as Ford Foundation's program manager for reproductive health, supported "Who Owns Women's Bodies" and many other projects that will have lasting impact on the lives of Filipinos. To name a few of the innovative projects, Lia supported an ongoing "road show" by Peta, "Libby Manoag Files II" about women's bodies, networking among Muslim women's groups and training for research skills in the area of sexuality. Starting this month, Lia will be based in Bangkok where she promises to continue to challenge Filipinos to respond to reproductive health needs, this time as the head of the Rockefeller Foundation's Asian programs.

* * *

Comments on today's column can be sent to miguel@pinoykasi.org

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LETTERS

Smuggling makes everyone a loser

SMUGGLING has always been a major national problem that has contributed nothing but misery to the economy. It has stunted the growth and development of industries because legitimate business cannot compete against these free-loaders. In the game played mostly by *kamaganaks* and *compadres*, everybody was a loser, including the government, which should have benefited from taxes paid on the goods. The only winners were the smugglers and their benefactors.

Take the case of sugar. Never in history has sugar smuggling been so rampant as in 1999 when the domestic price fell from a high of P1,000 for a 50-kilo bag to its lowest levels of P600 and remained there for over a year, unable to reach the projected level of P800. What seemed to be an endless stream of smuggled sugar choked the local market which was unable to absorb the supply. Many in the sugar trade remember the year 1999 as the year when everybody, including sugar producers, lost money except the smugglers.

It is heartening to know that the newly appointed agriculture secretary, Leonardo Montemayor, has promised to take a direct hand in curbing smuggling. I wish him all the best. While he is at it, he may want to look into widespread talk about the smuggling of prohibited drugs concealed in sugar and rice bags.

Wittingly or unwittingly perhaps, the benefactors might or might not have been aware of what exactly was brought into the country. If someone is awash with billions of unexplained peso deposits all over the place, would you not give it some serious thought?

Wasn't Edgardo Espiritu trembling during the impeachment trial, deathly afraid to give the names of the smugglers he saw in Malacañang?

Nagtatanong lang po.—**CESAR M. DE LOS REYES, 45 Fordham St., White Plains, Quezon City**

Lopezes were at Edsa

I WOULD like to speak out on behalf of a maligned gentleman, Oscar Lopez, whom Ricardo Boncan, in your Feb. 5 issue, referred to as a hypocrite "to make remarks about a possible Edsa III to President Macapagal, especially since they (the Lopez clan) did not even participate in Estrada's ouster."

While I do not know for a fact if Lopez was there or not (I really wonder how Boncan knew he wasn't, considering the size of the crowd), I am a personal witness to the daily presence of his daughter, Rina Lopez-Bautista, and immediate members of her family on Edsa from Day One to the last day.

The fact is that I was pleasantly shocked to find myself working in a Lopez outfit whose tacit office policy was to support the Erap Resign Movement. Having recently come from a "progressive" NGO which was unfortunately neutral and quiet on the issue, the change was indeed a huge and welcome relief.

The majority of the employees of Sky Foundation Inc. (which runs Knowledge Channel) led by Rina, followed her example from Jan. 17 to 20. Black became the office theme color throughout those four days. Early afternoons off were a given; and on the final day, half the office, again with its leader, trooped to Edsa at noon to heed the call. "Erap Resign" neon stickers were made by us from office supplies, candles were bought and "placards" were designed by amateur artists among us. We joined former President Fidel V. Ramos as he jogged by us (we were on Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa); and joined the human chain the day after.

My point is that Boncan should not make such sweeping statements. Having been with them for the limited period that I have, I know for a fact that the Lopezes, like many other Filipino families, have a healthy respect for each others' opinions and decisions, no matter that one of them is married to an Estrada daughter. Perhaps the writer should check out his facts first before damaging the reputations of those whose reputations are built on solid ground.

I have a vicious habit of wanting to right wrongs—in this case to correct inaccuracies obviously stemming from the ignorance of the writer.—**DORIS S. NUVAL, 888 SkyMall Bldg., Edsa, Mandaluyong City**

Gov't should fund mandatory wage hike

I IMAGINED Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin doing the now classic Tessie Aquino-Oreta jig, while giggling behind the hand covering her mouth.

This came to my mind when I read the article: "No pay increases for government workers." (PDI, 2/9/01) What struck me and perhaps, all my fellow government employees, was Boncodin's temerity in "welcoming" the deferment of the passage of the year 2001 national budget, because "this would put on hold the mandatory 5-percent increase in government salaries this year which would have entailed a P7-billion allocation." In effect, she also "welcomed" withholding of the pay increases which is supposed to be mandatory in the first place. She might as well have taunted us: *Belat! Mabuti nga. Kahit karapat-dapat at iniuutos ng batas, hindi maibibigay sa inyo.*

This is ironic. The bulk of workers who can never escape from paying taxes, who can never cheat on the amount of taxes due the government, are deprived of what is supposed to be theirs by law. The cost of living and staying alive is fast soaring to heights unreachable to most of us. And there's the proposed school tuition increases again.

Government employees have to make do with their take-home pay, which, as they say, is hardly enough to make both ends meet. How will they get the extra money for the education of their children? By stealing? By indulging in graft and corruption? I hope not. We are keepers of the public trust.

Boncodin also said it is "unlikely" that the salary hike of state employees will be included in the supplemental budget, because "a number of agencies (will) lobby for additional funding." I don't get it. The salary increase is mandated by law. Why should this be used by other agencies to ask for additional allotment? I suspect the agency which will be first in lobbying for additional funds will be Boncodin's Department of Budget and Management. It has the clout to do so, being the overseer of government coffers. As the song goes: It doesn't take a genius to read between the lines.

Boncodin herself is a government official. She should sympathize with the plight of state employees. Unfortunately, she seems to be enjoying the sad plight of her countrymen à la Tessie Aquino-Oreta.—**LEO S. REYES, Tuguegarao Hall of Justice, Barangay Carig, Tuguegarao City**

Ang had nothing to do with Erap's affairs

THIS is to rectify the allegations of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan in her column last Jan. 23, where she linked without basis whatsoever our client, Ramon S. Ang, to the defense of former President Joseph Estrada in the Senate impeachment trial, to negotiations with the "Macapagal transition team," and to the purported bank transactions for Estrada.

Likewise, we are constrained to correct the insinuations made by Victor C. Agustin in his column last Jan. 12, 22 and 31, all tending to link Ang to the purported meeting of former Equitable-PCI Bank chair George L. Go and Jaime Dichaves at the office of lawyer Estelito Mendoza on Dec. 13, 2000 at the height of the impeachment trial of former President Estrada.

The truth is that while Ang was also at the office of Mendoza that day, it was to seek Mendoza's advice on another matter. His presence there had nothing to do with the impeachment trial of Estrada. Mendoza has been Ang's lawyer for the past several years, and he often consults with him on various legal matters.

Further, we categorically deny that Ang was part of the defense panel of former President Estrada, as Cunanan alleged. He never worked with Estrada's defense lawyers on the impeachment trial. He had neither knowledge of nor any participation in the alleged transfer and safeguarding of the purported Estrada accounts in various banks.

Neither was Ang a part of the Estrada team which met with the transition team of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

While we respect the right of Cunanan and Agustin to publish their views as journalists, we firmly believe that they should have checked both sides of the story, first especially since very serious issues were raised against our client.

Lately, we have noted accusations and insinuations similar to those raised by Cunanan and Agustin, including some black propaganda through text messages and telephone calls besmirching the reputation of Ang, and even threatening him and his family with harm. As we are inclined to believe that your two columnists are not part of this insidious hate campaign against our client, we look forward to your publication of this letter.—**ALEXANDER J. POBLADOR, lawyer, Poblador Bautista & Reyes Law Offices, 5th Floor, Sedeco 1 Bldg., 120 Rada corner Legaspi Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City**

Erap man as anti-Erap group's spokesperson?

IN ALL the confusion over who has been appointed and dis-appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, a small news announcement about banker Choi Alas aspiring to head the Public Estates Authority stuck out like a sore thumb.

The announcement was made by former President Estrada's former Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Ramon "Eki" Cardenas for the Council of Philippine Affairs which is reportedly sulking after most of its recommendees were not appointed. In fact the appointment as Comelec chair of Council on Philippine Affairs founder Jose Cojuangco's cousin, Egmidio Tanjuatco, still has to be announced. Is this the reason perhaps why Copa now has an Erap keyman as spokesperson?—**MIKE TOLENTINO, 6 16th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Can Filipinos be truly democratic?

THE WRITERS of the two letters under the headings "Tatad should stop whining" and "Really now, Kit" (PDI, 2/5/01) took a long time and so many words to say how much they hated the senator. It strikes me as funny that they, who use freedom of speech to the hilt in expressing the typical views of a few People Power II veterans, should protest too much and react vehemently to a senator talking back through the media. Is it because he talks more sense than they?

For the good of the country, I hope not too many character assassins identified with the present dispensation will be unleashed. The intolerance they display and the ill will they foster make one seriously doubt whether Filipinos can ever be truly democratic. Because of the excesses committed by their kind in the name of truth and justice, it is not unlikely that authoritarian rule will return. In this sense, they are the opposite of heroes. After all, no one since Ninoy Aquino has really done anything to deserve that honor.

Perhaps they wrote simply to vent their anger with the former president and his business cronies. Well, they can have a field day kicking their enemies when they're down. But they should choose their targets well. The 11 senators cannot be fair game, for they have in fact been robbed of their constitutional prerogative to convict or to acquit the former president.—**VICTORIA B. ORENSE, 49 Cluster H, Bagong Nayon, Antipolo City**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

DENR steps into 'toxic' chemicals row between Erap pals

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday stepped into the conflict between two close allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada over the importation of allegedly toxic chemicals.

The controversy, which has pitted the Zamboanga-based ethnic Chinese businessman Lepeng Wee against Zamboanga City Mayor Clara Ma. Clara Lobregat, involves the shipment of 39 drums of the allegedly toxic chemicals, supposedly with the help of the businessman.

Acting Secretary Joemari Gerochi ordered the DENR Environmental Management Bureau to find out if the chemicals were indeed toxic and whether the shipment was covered by the required documents under Republic Act 6969, also known as the Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act of 1990, and whether Lepeng Wee violated the Basel Convention.

Wee, said to be a friend of Estrada, was an adviser on Mindanao economic affairs.

Lobregat earlier questioned the entry of the allegedly toxic shipment despite assurances from two Malaysian businessmen that the shipment consists only of chemicals to be used in a foam factory that has yet to be built in Zamboanga.

Gerochi said the DENR investigating team would also determine if the shipment had violated the Basel Convention on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous materials.

"We will file a formal complaint on behalf of the Philippine government through the Department of Foreign Affairs to the Basel Convention Secretariat," Gerochi said.

• *Cynthia D. Balana*

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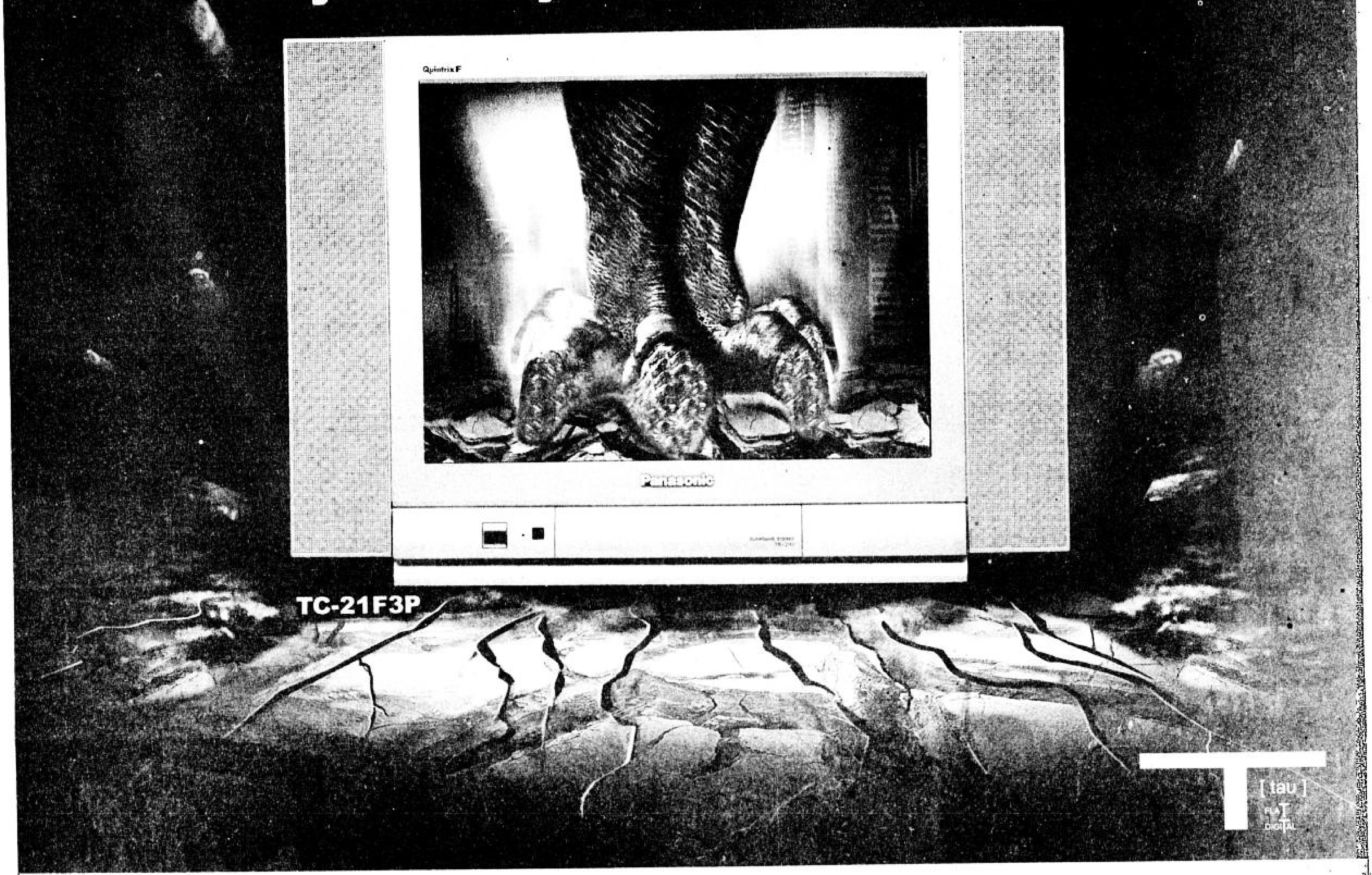

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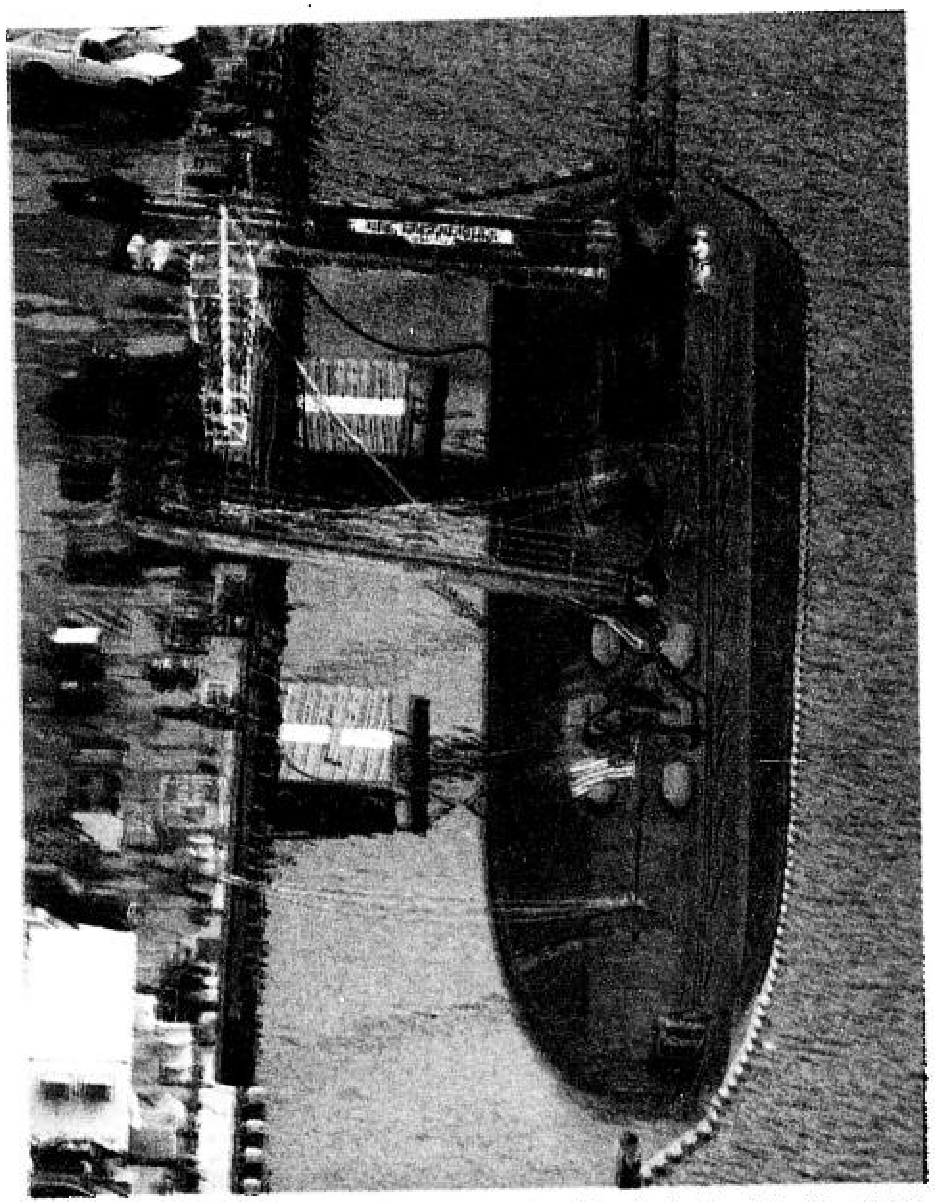
MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Civilians were at controls of US sub during collision



THE USS Greeneville docked at Pearl Harbor Naval Station in Honolulu, Hawaii, Feb. 13. The submarine collided with the Japanese fishing trawler Ehime Maru during an emergency ascent drill Feb. 9. Nine people from the trawler are still missing. REUTERS

HONOLULU—Two civilians were at the controls of the USS Greeneville when the submarine surfaced and sank a Japanese fishing vessel off the Hawaiian coast, a Navy spokesperson said.

"There were two civilians at two separate watch stations under the very close supervision of a qualified watch stander," Lt. Cmdr. Conrad Chun, a Pacific Fleet spokesperson, said Tuesday.

He declined to identify which stations were involved, but said they could include the helm, sonar or the ballast control. The Navy has refused to identify who was aboard, but Chun said the 16 civilians included business leaders.

A defense official in Washington said one of the civilians was at the helm. However, there is no indication the civilian played any role in Friday's collision, said the official, who is familiar with the investigation and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

A Pentagon spokesperson, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, said no information about the circumstances at the time of the accident would be released until the Navy has completed its investigation.

The Pentagon said it has not given up searching for nine people missing from the Japanese vessel, a 57-meter ship owned by Uwajima Fisheries High School in southwestern Japan. Twenty-six people were rescued at sea an hour after the Ehime Maru was rammed by the surfacing 108-meter submarine and sank in 540 meters of water.

The Greeneville was conducting a drill in which the submarine dives to about 120 meters and then makes a rapid ascent—known as an "emergency main ballast blow."

The sub commander usually ensures that nothing is in the way before rocketing to the surface, but the Greeneville somehow failed to detect the presence of the fishing vessel.

The Navy takes civilians aboard its ships and submarines as a means of promoting its service, educating civilians about the Navy and to accommodate journalist's requests.

Chun said it was routine for civilians to be allowed at the controls under close supervision.

"The guy's right over their shoulder," he said. "The guy's right there."

He would not say whether such situations are normal when a submarine is conducting an emergency drill. Another Navy spokesperson, Cmdr. Greg Smith, said any civilian at a control position would have a qualified helmsman beside him or her in case something went wrong.

The National Transportation Safety Board also is investigating.

NTSB member John Hammerschmidt, who is leading the investigation here, said he only learned civilians were involved from news reports after investigators toured the sub Tuesday.

The news angered one of the crewmen of the sunken vessel.

"A civilian wouldn't know what to do (at the controls)," said Ryoichi Miya, first mate of the Ehime Maru.

"I don't know if the emergency surfacing was a drill or what, but it's absolutely unforgivable if a civilian was operating it," he said, his voice rising in anger.

Japan has asked the United States to salvage the sunken boat. The US Navy has sent a submersible underwater device equipped with sonar and video cameras to investigate the wreck and see if that was possible.

President George W. Bush telephoned Japan's prime minister, Yoshiro Mori, to express condolences for the collision and the apparent loss of life.

"He asked me to do everything I could" to locate the nine Japanese still missing, Bush said, "which we are doing."

Bush suggested that he was not ready to order the raising of the sunken boat. "We haven't ascertained all the facts yet," he said. *AP*

8 Israelis die in hit-and-run bus attack

AZUR, Israel—A Palestinian man on Wednesday drove a bus into a group of Israeli soldiers and civilians waiting at a bus stop, killing eight and wounding at least nine in the deadliest attack by Palestinian militants during the past five months of Israel-Palestinian fighting.

The driver, a resident of the Gaza Strip, fled in the bus and was caught after a high-speed chase by police who fired shots at the vehicle and seriously injured him.

The hit-and-run attack occurred at about 7:50 a.m. at a crowded bus stop in the small town of Azur, south of Tel Aviv. Many of the casualties were soldiers.

Several bodies covered by blankets lay by the roadside, as paramedics led away dazed survivors, including two young women soldiers in olive uniforms. Shoes, jackets, backpacks and other personal belongings were strewn across the sidewalk.

The attack came at a time of increased Israeli-Palestinian violence.

On Tuesday, Israeli helicopter gunships killed a Palestinian security agent in a pin-pointed attack in the Gaza Strip. Israel said the man was suspected of attacking a Jewish settlement with mortars.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Wednesday's bus attack. In recent years, Islamic militant groups have carried out a series of attacks in Israel, including suicide bombings. Wednesday's casualty toll was one of the highest in recent years.

Paramedics said at least nine people were injured, including six who were in moderate or serious condition.

The bus, owned by the Israeli company Egged, had transported Palestinian workers from the Gaza Strip to Israel on Wednesday morning.

Israel had sealed the Palestinian areas for most of the past months, but in recent weeks had eased the closure slightly, allowing several thousand Palestinian workers to return to jobs in Israel.

The attack occurred during Wednesday morning rush hour at a bus stop in Azur. Witnesses said the bus ran into soldiers and civilians at the bus stop, then raced southward, toward the city of Ashdod. About 10 miles to the south, police opened fire on the bus, which crashed into the back of a truck and stopped. *AP*

157 killed in new quake in Salvador

SAN SALVADOR—At least 157 people were killed yesterday when a strong earthquake rocked El Salvador, unleashing a new wave of grief and panic in a nation still recovering from a massive quake a month ago that left hundreds dead and more than a million homeless.

"The death toll continues to rise, 157 are dead and more than 1,000 are injured. We don't know the exact numbers, but thousands have been affected," presidential spokesperson Luis Lopez Portillo said.

Between 15 and 20 school children were killed when their school building, built of mud-brick, collapsed when the 6.1-magnitude quake struck at 8:22 a.m., the headmistress of the Roman Catholic-run school told local television.

The traumatized teacher from the municipality of Candelaria, some 40 km east of the capital, said children in her care were still buried under the rubble.

Lopez Portillo had warned earlier the death toll was set to rise, with hundreds more people believed to be buried beneath crumpled buildings.

"In Cojutepeque alone we have reports of three schools, where classes were being held, that have collapsed," he said.

President Francisco Flores said yesterday that the departments of San Vicente, Cuscatlan and La Paz had been badly hit with "an enormous number of displaced persons."

"We need a fresh work effort," Flores told a press conference. "If we can get to them (the injured) in time with medical resources, we can save them." *AFP*

Burma accuses Thai army of helping rebs

MAE SAI, Thailand—Burma accused the Thai Army Wednesday of giving artillery support to anti-Rangoon rebels during heavy border fighting that has plunged bilateral relations to a new low.

Thailand denied the accusation and said it has closed the key border checkpoint of Mae Sai to block commodities like oil, gasoline and medicine from reaching Burma for strategic reasons.

Both countries have sent reinforcements to a stretch of the northern border where fighting between Burma (also known as Myanmar) troops and the separatist Shan rebels spilled into Thailand at the weekend, sparking the worst clashes in several years between Thai and Burma forces. At least 19 combatants and civilians were killed on both sides.

In a statement issued Wednesday in the Burma capital, Rangoon, the military government accused the Thai Army of treating the leader of the rebel Shan United Revolutionary Army like a "partner."

"The SURA has been given not only bases and sanctuaries inside Thailand but also the artillery support against the Burma troop positions," said the statement received in the Thai capital, Bangkok.

Burma also lodged a protest with the Thai ambassador, Oum Maolanon in a tit-for-tat reaction to a Thailand reprimand. *AP*

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Bin Laden's telecom network more advanced than US'–NSA chief

BIN LADEN

NEW YORK—A top US intelligence official yesterday admitted that militant Islamic group leader Osama bin Laden's telecommunications network was more advanced than that of the United States.

In an interview with CBS television's "60 Minutes II," to be broadcast Tuesday, US National Security Agency director Mike Hayden admitted that the United States is "behind the curve" in the telecommunications realm.

"Our adversary telecommunications are now based upon the developmental cycle of a global industry that is literally moving at the speed of light," Hayden told "60 Minutes II," according to the transcript obtained by AFP.

"Cell phones, encryption, fiber-optic telecommunications, digital communications . . . Those are all available to people who could do harm to the United States of America. We are behind the curve."

Hayden said that, in the Cold War era, the Soviet Union "had to rely on those things the Soviet Union built" for telecommunications.

By contrast, he said, "Osama bin Laden has at his disposal the wealth of a three-trillion-a-year telecommunications industry he can rely on. He has better technology."

Hayden says change is imperative in order for his agency, which operates listening posts throughout the world, to survive on this new playing field.

"This is about an agency that's grown up in one world, learned a way to succeed within that world, and now finds itself in another world—and it's got to change if it hopes to succeed in that world," he said.

Bin Laden, in exile in Afghanistan under the protection of the ruling Taliban militia, is among the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's 10 most wanted fugitives.

He is wanted in connection with the bombings of two US embassies in East Africa in 1998, which killed 224 people. *AFP*

MY GREAT VALENTINE REUTERS

Two pairs of Asian elephants, male Nga Tong (left), 17, and his "bride" Nanpuang, 24, (2nd, left) along with female Ooyjai (2nd right) and her partner, Wo Ban, 24, pose at their wedding ceremony on Valentine's Day Feb. 14 in Ayutthaya, the ancient former capital of Thailand. The occasion coincides with elephants' traditional mating season.

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Milosevic's extradition seen possible

BELGRADE—A law now in the works would provide for extraditing suspects—like Slobodan Milosevic—for trial by the UN war crimes tribunal, Yugoslavia's president said Tuesday.

In a further tightening of the vise around the former Yugoslav president, a key Milosevic associate was arrested and another was reported to have fled the country.

Milosevic has been indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal for alleged atrocities in Kosovo, and the Netherlands-based tribunal has asked that he be extradited to face trial.

Despite the new law, which would remove the ban on extradition of Yugoslav citizens, President Vojislav Kostunica suggested he remained opposed to Milosevic's immediate extradition.

"The law will take up the question of extradition but that will not be its most important part, nor will extradition solve everything," Kostunica said. *AP*

Clinton's woes worsen

WASHINGTON—Bill Clinton's post-presidential woes took a turn for the worse Tuesday as key Republicans who led the impeachment charge against him two years ago subpoenaed detailed records regarding a controversial last-minute presidential pardon.

The move comes on top of a series of scandals dogging the former leader since he left office Jan. 20, including suggestions the Clintons took with them some White House furniture, and a media outcry over his choice of pricey office space which tax-payers pay for.

Clinton on Tuesday was calm in the aftermath of the controversy, after abandoning his plan for the expensive mid-town New York space he first considered, for a building in the less expensive neighborhood of Harlem.

"I have decided to locate my offices in this building—if we can work it out," Clinton told reporters, flashing a broad smile, before approaching a thick crowd of well-wishers and vigorously shaking hands.

President George W. Bush, who campaigned on the promise of uniting the country, kept himself above the fray.

"I think it's time to move on," he told reporters aboard Air Force One on Tuesday. But, he added, "the Congress is going to do what they are going to do."

At the heart of the furor is Clinton's last-minute pardon of Marc Rich, a multimillionaire businessman accused of massive US tax fraud who fled to Switzerland in 1983 in the face of $48-million tax evasion charges.

His ex-wife, Denise Rich has been a generous contributor to Democratic causes, including a $450,000 donation for Clinton's presidential library fund.

Chaired by Republican Dan Burton, the House Government Reform Committee on Tuesday demanded that Denise Rich's bank records be subpoenaed to check if the funds had actually been illegally channeled by Rich.

Two other subpoenas were sent out Tuesday morning to the Democratic National Committee and the Clinton Presidential Library foundation for information on all financial pledges and transactions.

Democrats on the committee, while not overtly defending Clinton, were looking into the action.

"We are in the process of evaluating to see if the subpoenas were appropriate. Some of them seen overly broad," said committee ranking democrat Henry Waxman's spokesperson Phil Scahliro. "(Last week's) hearing did not produce any wrongdoing." *AFP*

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ing event on March 2,3 & 4

WORLDBRIEFS

Fujimori to be prosecuted

LIMA—Former president Alberto Fujimori, now a political exile in Japan, is to be prosecuted for dereliction of duty, a Peruvian congressional committee decided Tuesday in a public session broadcast on television. The Permanent Committee of Congress which debated the measure voted 13-eight in favor of prosecuting Fujimori, who resigned by fax from Tokyo late last year. His resignation was refused by Congress, however, which voted instead to oust him on grounds of "permanent moral incapacity." Under Peru's constitutional law, three lawmakers will now be appointed to draw up formal charges, and the full Congress will vote on them. *AFP*

Wahid sets police reform

JAKARTA—In a further move to enhance the powers of Indonesia's restive provinces, President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday suggested the country's tightly centralized police force be divided among local authorities. He said the national government would soon decide the future of the 187,000-member police force, which has been plagued by accusations of endemic corruption, incompetence and brutality. *AP*

California energy crisis

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush said Tuesday that he would explore with Mexican counterpart Vicente Fox whether joint production of additional power could help solve California's energy crisis. "That's part of the discussions with the president of Mexico will be, to determine whether or not there is the ability to jointly work on the ability to generate more power," Bush told reporters aboard the presidential plane. "We need more power, pure and simple," said the US leader, whose Friday trip to Mexico is his first international foray since taking office Jan. 20. *AFP*

Kim Jong-il to Seoul

SEOUL—A South Korean official yesterday denied a report that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il will visit Seoul as early as next week, but confirmed that such a trip is expected in the spring. "The government has said that Chairman Kim Jong is expected to visit Seoul in the spring," Chief presidential spokesperson Park Joon-young said in response to questions about the report in the JoonAng Ilbo newspaper. The Kim Jong-il trip to Seoul would be the first by a supreme North Korean leader since the division of the Korean peninsula into the communist North and the pro-Western South in 1945. *AP*

Taiwan nuclear project

TAIPEI—Taiwan's new government ordered construction to begin again on the island's fourth nuclear plant yesterday, sacrificing a sacred policy goal for political and economic stability. Restarting the nuclear project was the first major defeat for President Chen Shui-bian's administration, which infuriated the powerful opposition by trying to cancel the plant three months ago without seeking lawmakers' approval. Political feuding over the plant that ravaged investor confidence in the stock market officially came to an end Tuesday when Premier Chang Chun-hsiung reinstated the $5.4-billion plant, the pet project of the previous government. *AP*

Colombia drug labs

LA ESPERANZA, Colombia—Buoyed by unexpected success in fumigating coca crops, a US-financed offensive is targeting clandestine jungle labs in search-and-destroy missions in the heart of the world's main cocaine-producing region. Colombian Army troops, trained by Green Berets and guided by spy-plane and satellite technology, have had only light skirmishes with leftist rebels and rival right-wing paramilitary gunmen who earn millions of dollars from "taxing" the cocaine industry in southern Colombia. *AP*

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Rice cargo probed

LILOAN, Southern Leyte—A cargo vessel, which was seized after it was found loaded with 15,000 sacks of smuggled rice, was sent to Tacloban City for further investigation. Customs district collector Eufemio Aguilar said the cargo would be held for proper inventory and disposition after a hearing is conducted to allow the shipper to present proof of its legality. Customs authorities seized the MV Premship XII (not Premier as earlier reported) last month after it was found loaded with rice believed to have been smuggled from Vietnam. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Doctors to serve poor

KALIBO, Aklan—Thirty-one medical experts from the "Operation Smile" medical mission will arrive here on Feb. 20 to perform surgery on poor patients with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities. Gov. Florencio Miraflores said government hospitals in Aklan are screening patients who will be among those to be chosen by the visiting medical experts on Feb. 21-23 at the Don Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital. Surgery will be conducted at the hospital from Feb. 26 to March 2.
Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau

Irrigation stopped

NAGA CITY—The National Irrigation Administration in Bicol has suspended irrigation services to about 1,700 hectares of riceland in Cabusao and Libmanan, Camarines Sur because farmer-beneficiaries have failed to pay the Camarines Sur I Electric Cooperative about P2.3 million in electric bills. NIA regional director Feliciano Berdin said the NIA collected only P1.4 million of the total amount of P6.6 million in unpaid bills last year. The agency charges six cavans per hectare of land per cropping from the farmers.
Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Papal Nuncio to visit Laguna

SAN PABLO CITY—Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Papal Nuncio, will visit the Diocese of San Pablo, Laguna, and meet with leaders of the Catholic Church and local officials. Among Franco's planned activities are a concelebrated Mass in Pagsanjan Church, a dialogue with the Catholic school heads and a visit to prisoners at the provincial jail in Sta. Cruz town. Franco will also meet the religious at the St. Isidore Church in Calauan, talk with the clergy and have lunch with the Presbyterium.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Anti-vice campaign

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Newly installed and first woman governor of Laguna Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro has vowed to continue working against illegal gambling, illegal drugs and other social ills plaguing Laguna. In a speech during her inauguration as governor last week, Lazaro said she would strive to improve the welfare of school teachers, solve the Agarao murder case, and institute measures to check the garbage problem. She said people from outside the province would be barred from dumping garbage in the locality without her approval.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Strike in computer school

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—A strike mounted two months ago by 15 dismissed teachers of AMA Computer College here and 25 students who were kicked out for exposing the school administration's alleged excesses is far from over. Noel Geda, AMA-Sta. Cruz acting director, refused to comment about the dispute but said the campus was "very peaceful" and had "no serious problems." Ramir Sarmiento, an officer of the student council who was among the strikers, said he and 24 other students were expelled "without due process."
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PNP Day awards

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine National Police regional office awarded 13 officers and commands that excelled last year and nine government employees and civilians who helped it perform its duties and functions. The awarding was made on the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebration on Saturday. Among the awardees were the Albay police, the Naga City police and the Ligao municipal police.
Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Western section of Visayas will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 32° Lo 24°	Baguio Hi 21° Lo 17°	Tuguegarao Hi 33° Lo 22°	Laoag Hi 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone Hi 28° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 30° Lo 23°	Legazpi Hi 31° Lo 24°	Calapan Hi 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 24°	Roxas Hi 31° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 32° Lo 25°	Tacloban Hi 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos Hi 32° Lo 23°	Zamboanga Hi 32° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 35° Lo 23°	Davao Hi 32° Lo 24°

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Parents of 2 boys killed in Cebu blast given ₱1.5M

By JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN AND TONTON ANTOGOP
PDI Visayas Bureau

TOLEDO CITY—The parents of the two young boys killed in an explosion in an abandoned mine have admitted receiving P1.5 million in exchange for the dropping of criminal charges against American and Filipino sailors who participated in an RP-US joint exercise.

Pedro and Victoria Navales, parents of Rolly, and Anselmo and Remegia Gaviola, parents of Arnel, said they received P500,000 each on Jan. 7 from a lawyer of the Philippine Navy men.

Patricio and Felicidad Villarmia, parents of Jordan, who was injured in the blast, also received P500,000, according to the Navaleses and Gaviolas who were interviewed in their homes in Sitio Pandong Bato, Barangay Media Once here.

However, Pedro and Anselmo, who are neighbors, said they only got a little over half of the amount as they each gave P200,000 to their lawyer, Achilles Cañete.

The Villarmias also gave P250,000 to Cañete.

Pedro said he and his wife were not forced to drop the case, but it was Cañete who made the proposal.

"We would have wanted justice but it was such a hassle. We are poor and we have to spend for the case," said Mrs. Navales in Cebuano.

Cañete, who will run as Promdi party-list candidate in May, denied the alleged payoff, saying it was his clients who wanted the case dropped.

"That's not true. They were the ones who asked for the dropping of the case. As a lawyer, I have no alternative but to prepare the affidavit of desistance," he said.

Navales said the payoff took place in a posh hilltop residence in Cebu City, 50 km east of Toledo.

Present were a certain Attorney Espinosa, Cañete and a man claiming to be lawyer of the Philippine Navy who reportedly owned the house, he said.

After receiving the money, Anselmo said he and his wife were made to sign a document which, he said, they did not read because it was in English.

Cañete, he added, just told them the papers were for the withdrawal of the double homicide with physical injuries through negligence case filed against the 39 American and Filipino sailors before the city prosecutor's office.

On Jan. 29, the prosecutor's office dropped the charges against the sailors after receiving the affidavits of desistance of the victims' parents and Cañete's motion to dismiss.

The affidavits said the parents believed the explosion was an "accident" and the "will of God."

Rolly and Arnel were killed on Aug. 19 after playing with a live M-203 grenade they found at an abandoned mining site of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. in Barangay Don Andres Soriano, Toledo.

The grenade was apparently left behind after the joint RP-US military exercise, dubbed "Flash Piston," was staged at the mine site.

Ruben Carranza, former defense assistant secretary who recommended the pursuit of criminal charges against those involved in the war games, said the case could be reopened even if the parents had issued affidavits of desistance.

Carranza said the affidavits only indicated they were no longer interested in pursuing the case but did not contradict their earlier affidavits accusing the sailors of double homicide with physical injuries through negligence.

Among the original affidavits that can be used to reopen the case was that of survivor Jordan, who also executed an affidavit of desistance, he said.

'Gift of love' for Baguio dump scavengers

By AVIGAIL OLARTE
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Officials marked the Day of Hearts by offering a "gift of love" to the 300 scavengers of the Irisan dump and promising them better lives.

Top city officials and project donors on Wednesday joined the groundbreaking for the city's P8-million compost plant at Barangay Irisan, guaranteeing the project's operation in May.

The officials, led by Mayor Mauricio Domogan, and members of the Alay sa Kalinisan and the Jaime Ongpin Foundation planted 15 trees at the site to "symbolize the project's good intention."

"We'd like to improve the site not just with the compost plant but to also turn it into a forested area," said Rhoda Buenavista, project officer of the solid waste management program of the JVO Foundation.

She said the plant was dedicated to improve the scavengers' lives.

"Entrepreneurship and skills training would continue to further equip the community in Irisan," she said.

The series of training started last year. Buenavista said the scavengers' products, like scented candles and candle stands, would be shown during the Baguio Flower Festival this week.

"Our approach is to involve them in livelihood projects that would be a much safer and cleaner way of generating income," he said.

YOUNG scavengers at work in Irisan dump in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO

Romeo Concio, Baguio general services officer, said his office would try to save the 40 houses near the proposed plant site that were earlier ordered to be demolished. Around 3.8 hectares of the plant site would be fenced off.

"Our engineers are surveying the area. Instead of encroaching on the upper site where the houses are, we will move to a vacant lot below," he said.

In a dialogue last week with project officials, the scavengers endorsed the compost plant project after getting assurance that no house will be demolished.

They were also told that scavenging would continue in the dump. "That would continue, only now it's systematized," Buenavista said.

She said an identification system would be put in place for the long-time scavengers to prevent more migrants from flocking to the area.

Buenavista said the burning of waste in the dump might continue even with the operation of the compost plant.

"The government can only do so much. *Matitigas kasi ang ulo nila* (They are stubborn). It might take a long time before the area will be smoke-free," she said.

The JVO Foundation plans to offer its savings and credit banking system to the scavengers.

"Irisan is the biggest barangay in Baguio and it has the highest recorded number of poor families," said Maria Rosario Lopez, executive director of the JVO Foundation.

The project, supported by the United Nations Development Program, encourages scavengers to save their income from trash picking and avail themselves of loans that are payable in six months.

Lopez said the loan grants would finance the scavengers' livelihood projects, like retail stores. At least 80 residents have availed of the program since it was offered in December last year.

The Alay sa Kalinisan, JVO Foundation and several women's groups will introduce the waste segregation scheme to the barangays.

"The compost plant is a good start. What's important is for people to be trained to manage their own garbage. Discipline must be enforced to curb our garbage problem," former Baguio Mayor Virginia de Guia, a member of the Alay sa Kalinisan, said.

Army soldiers capture young NPA guerrilla

DAVAO CITY—Another young rebel was captured in an Army raid here Friday.

Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, on Tuesday said the 17-year-old was captured in a raid on a house in Sitio Kahusayan, Barangay Manuel Guianga in Tugbok District.

Del Rosario said the young man and two other New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas were waiting for breakfast to be served by the farmer who owns the house when the soldiers came.

As the rebels fled, Bagobo residents who reportedly joined the raiders caught up with the young man after he fell into a gully near the house.

Del Rosario said the young man suffered bruises.

A .38 cal. revolver and a hand-held radio unit were recovered from him.

Del Rosario said the Army was holding the young man for tactical interrogation, but he will be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in accordance with special protection laws for children in situation of armed conflict.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Army's 7th ID, said the Army had captured 109 teenage rebels nationwide in the past two years.

The figure indicates that the NPA is still accepting teenagers in their ranks despite criticisms by various sectors over the recruitment of minors, Carolina said.

The National Democratic Front in Southern Mindanao earlier explained that as a policy, the NPA sets 15 years old as the minimum age for membership in their ranks.

Such policy, the NDF said, was in compliance with the limit set under Protocol I of the Geneva Convention.

On Tuesday, the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade reported that it recovered 35 high-powered firearms during a series of military operations last week in Davao Oriental and Davao del Sur.

The Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion also encountered 15 NPA rebels in Barangay Maragatas, Lupon, Davao Oriental at around 5 a.m. Monday. No one was reported hurt.

On Sunday, 18 high-powered firearms were recovered by the Army's 68th Infantry Battalion following a clearing operation of abandoned NPA camps in Barangay Tacol in Kilawan, Davao del Sur.
Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

AFP won't give up MILF camps

COTABATO CITY—Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Angelo Reyes on Tuesday expressed opposition to the demand of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) for the military to vacate captured rebel camps as a precondition to the resumption of peace talks.

Reyes said the military had shed blood in performing its mandated task of maintaining peace and order in Mindanao. The MILF claimed to have killed at least 1,000 soldiers.

"The military hierarchy would not just easily allow that . . . we lost blood, we lost lives and resources in capturing the camps," Reyes said.

"We have established our presence there, we are developing the area. We should not be kicked out from there," he added.

But Reyes said the AFP would submit to the decision of the commander-in-chief.

Reyes, who was then President Joseph Estrada's AFP chief of staff when the military launched an all-out offensive against MILF forces in Mindanao, also lamented that the Moro front was raising another impossible demand.

"If the MILF is sincere, it should give no preconditions, otherwise it is not sincere," Reyes told radio station dzRH.

"We do not want to preempt the government peace panel but that is a very, very difficult condition that the MILF is trying to set," he said.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the MILF should refrain from setting preconditions to the resumption of peace talks.

"These are hindrances to our desire (and the MILF's desire) to resume the negotiations that collapsed last year," Ermita told radio station dxMS here.

He maintained that the government had not set any precondition for the talks. "Our only condition is that the talks must continue," he said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, countered that the military under the Macapagal administration was beginning to influence national decision-making as they did during the Estrada presidency.

Kabalu said the MILF had long been waiting for the resumption of talks and would readily do so "when the atmosphere is conducive to peace negotiations."

The MILF Central Committee said it would announce the members of its own peace panel soon. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Maganto wins bid after tossing of coin

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Call it a literal political gamble, if you will.

Controversial police Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto has won the endorsement of the Bulacan United Opposition (BUO) to run for governor in place of an early nominee, Luz Parungao Viado, through a toss-coin held Friday by BUO members.

The BUO is composed of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Maganto's party, and the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), among others.

Initially, NPC provincial chair and former Gov. Ignacio Santiago blocked Maganto's entry into the race under the BUO, citing the coalition's earlier announcement of Viado's bid.

But officials prevailed upon Santiago to reconsider his position and accept the entry of Maganto, a native of Mindanao who migrated to Bustos town 20 years ago.

During Friday's lunch meeting attended by BUO officials led by Santiago, former acting Bocaue Mayor Rudy Maran David and Bayan Muna-Bulacan party-list chair Joey Munsayac, Maganto and Viado agreed to toss the coin to decide who between them will be the coalition's candidate.

David and Munsayac proposed the method.

Munsayac tossed the coin and the side chosen by Maganto appeared.

Santiago said he respected and accepted the result, adding that it was an honest way that was agreed upon by the parties and not forced upon by Maganto's supporters.

"We can't do anything. That's how it is within the party and the coalition. One must give way and one must be favored for it to be united and strong," Santiago said in Filipino.

Viado, who was earlier convinced by Munsayac to settle for the vice gubernatorial position, also accepted the result.

"It's okay. As they say, I have greater chances of winning if I run for vice governor," she said in Filipino.

Munsayac said it was not only Maganto's entry which prompted them to ask Viado to settle for the vice gubernatorial post. He said they believe Viado would face a tough foe in reelectionist Gov. Josefina de la Cruz.

Viado would be facing reelectionist Vice Gov. Aurelio Plamenco of the Lakas-NUCD. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

POLL SEASON HEATS UP

Political posters dirty streets

ANGELES CITY—A day before the official campaign period started, the posters of senatorial candidates Franklin Drilon and Ralph Recto sprouted in this city.

On Monday, when Drilon and Recto filed their certificates of candidacy, their supporters practically plastered their posters on public walls in this city of more than 100,000 voters.

"Ibalik sa Senado," said the blue and red posters of Drilon, one of the "Magic 13" in the People Power Coalition's senatorial ticket.

Drilon, the posters hailed, was "Tapat sa Panunungkulan, Tapat sa Bayan."

Recto's big color posters carried a dashing photo of "Mr. Vilma Santos" whose commitment was "Una sa lahat, pamilyang Pilipino."

In the City of San Fernando south of this city, the billboards of former Bulacan Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, also a PPC senatorial bet, have mushroomed there.

As the supporters of the senatorial early birds worked to put up campaign posters on Monday night, a tricycle driver said reelectionist senators who voted "yes" to the opening of the controversial envelope during ousted President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial need not campaign so much.

"The trial and Edsa II made them popular already. I hope they just spend the money for livelihood projects," the driver said.

In Baguio City, former Speaker Manuel Villar's "Sipag at Tiyaga" campaign posters have been conspicuous since last month at the public market there.

Some campaign posters of reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan were also seen posted in public places and even on pine trees. Honasan's name was also painted on mountainsides and rocks along the Marcos Highway and Kennon Road in the city.

Survey results show that the contest between the PPC and a coalition of candidates identified with ousted President Estrada could be a close one.

But members of the PPC claim that the stigma attached to the perceived pro-Estrada candidates could derail the candidates' senatorial bids.

More campaign materials are expected to flood the streets, however, as the campaign season heats up.

Candidates are expected to use all forms of campaign possible since Congress failed to act on a bill that would have lifted the ban on political advertising.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Tañada says survey doesn't affect him

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada yesterday disclosed that he was not disturbed by the results of a Social Weather Stations survey that showed he was lagging behind in the senatorial race.

He added that in his previous four electoral battles, "I was always lagging behind in every poll, but I still always emerged as winner."

"What I will be offering to the people is my track record of sincere and steadfast dedication as a public servant," Tañada said.

He told the INQUIRER that he is now with the official line-up of the People Power Coalition.

"My waiting is now over. I and Kiko Pangilinan (both members of the Liberal Party) were both accommodated in the coalition," the Quezon lawmaker said.

When asked how he would rate his chances in the next senatorial race, Tañada replied: "Winning chance."

"There are lots who still don't know I'm running for senator," he added.

He expressed belief that national candidates who were active in the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada "will be ultimately given attention and support by the people."

"Although there are candidates who belong to the other camp (who) are still visible, I believe the final momentum will be with us," Tañada said. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Delays seen in Iloilo int'l airport

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Despite the efforts of Ilonggo leaders to rush the construction of the Iloilo international airport, the project will be stalled for at least a year.

Construction will start next year and not this year as stated in the project's timetable. This means the airport would be completed in 2005.

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor said many things have yet to be done before the construction starts, like having a detailed engineering design, purchasing the site for the airport and assessing its impact on surrounding communities.

He said the project was also delayed because the government was distracted by the jueteng scandal that rocked the administration of ousted President Joseph Estrada late last year.

Defensor said preparing the detailed engineering design would take at least a year. The province also has to pay the 218 owners of the 260 lots that would be eaten up by the 600-hectare proposed airport.

The governor said the Bureau of Internal Revenue will assess the value of the pieces of property that would be purchased.

The proposed international airport will be built in the boundary of Sta. Barbara and Cabatuan towns, 19 kilometers west of here.

The airport will replace the one in Mandurriao here as the existing airport would be unable to accommodate a projected increase in the volume of air traffic in the next five years.

The loan agreement for the proposed airport was signed last Aug. 31 between the governments of the Philippines and Japan.

The P5.5-billion loan is part of the P6.1 billion total project cost.

The Philippine government will shoulder the remaining P928 million. The loan was made available last Dec. 25.

In a statement, Sen. Franklin Drilon said Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez gave him assurances that the airport would be fast tracked.

He said negotiations on consultancy contract would be completed in February. A leading Japanese consulting firm would be invited to submit its financial proposal.

But Nicholas Rivas, chief of the infrastructure development division of the National Economic Development Authority here, said the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) should exert extra efforts to start the project this year.

The money is already available, he said, and delays could increase the project cost. In the end, he added, the government will have to negotiate for another loan to pay for any shortfall.

Rivas said one of the projects in Western Visayas that suffered rising project costs is the sewerage and water system on Boracay Island.

The government had to renegotiate for loans to pay for the shortfall because of the delays.

Cops say Bohol crime rate down

TAGBILARAN CITY—Bohol was more peaceful last year than the previous year, according to a report of Bohol police provincial commander Supt. Lani-o Nerez.

The crime volume in Bohol last year was recorded at 977 incidents, a dip of 11.4 percent compared to the 1,103 incidents in 1999, Nerez reported.

At least 257 cases were crimes against persons and 166 were crimes against property, he said in his report.

The average monthly crime rate was registered at 7.8 incidents per 100,000 people, less than the 8.8 incidents per 100,000 people in 1999.

Nerez said the province's crime solution efficiency was 91.6 percent with 895 incidents solved out of the total 977 reported in 2000. This was an improvement over 1999's 89.3 percent crime solution efficiency rate.

On the campaign against illegal drugs, the report said there were 21 seriously affected barangays and 21 threatened barangays at the start of year 2000.

But the number was reduced to 14 seriously affected barangays and 22 threatened following the arrest of 104 illegal drug pushers and users and operations launched by barangay anti-drug abuse councils.

At least 81 cases were filed against those who were arrested.

During the period, Nerez said law enforcers recovered 324.95 grams of shabu, 38 fully grown marijuana plants, 22 packs of marijuana seedlings, 24 packs and 16 bottles of rugby and P75,540 in proceeds and marked money.

At least 340 persons were arrested for illegal gambling that yielded P49,013.87 in bets. Some 201 anti-gambling cases were filed in court.

Nerez also reported that 43 people were arrested for illegal possession of firearms. Sixty firearms were surrendered while 44 were confiscated and another 10 were recovered.

Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

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Generals want say on new AFP chief

(From page A1)

The defense secretary normally makes a recommendation similar to that of the board, Ermita said.

"But remember," he said, "the appointment of the chief of staff is the prerogative of the President."

The Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (Forces), a group that played a major role in People Power II, is said to be batting for Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa.

Espinosa was the highest ranking military officer to cooperate with the United Opposition in the campaign to remove Joseph Estrada from the presidency.

By herself

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Executive Secretary Renato de Villa said it was the President herself who made the decision to let Reyes go.

He dismissed speculations that retired general Fortunato Abat, head of Forces and a former defense secretary, had pressured the President not to extend Reyes' term.

De Villa also tried to assuage fears that the move would make military forces loyal to Reyes restive.

He said Reyes had accepted the President's decision like a professional military officer.

"He is a professional, an officer and a gentleman—there is no question about that," De Villa said.

Asked whether Ms Macapagal had decided on who would replace Reyes, De Villa said she was reviewing a list of candidates.

He declined to name them, saying he did not want to jump the gun on the President.

But certain groups are said to be gearing to back their candidates.

Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, AFP vice chief of staff, reportedly enjoys the support of a group led by former President Fidel Ramos.

But critics say Calimlim's loyalty is suspect, having served a "succession of masters" from Ramos to Estrada.

According to military insiders, Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, AFP deputy chief of staff, has the support of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Paul Dominguez, the President's adviser on regional development.

De los Santos once served as commander of the United Nations Transition Authority in East Timor.

But a ranking Forces leader, who asked not to be named, said Espinosa had the edge over his rivals "because he's an original."

"He was the commander of the battle staff that was prepared to withdraw military support from Estrada. Other than Espinosa, "there is no officer in the AFP who is more deeply involved in the events before Edsa II," the source said.

Unconstitutional

Estrada had extended the term of Reyes to July 9, 2002, in an apparent attempt to secure the general's support as his administration faltered.

Abat, however, questioned the move, saying it was against the Constitution. He said the President could only do this in a state of war or national emergency.

De Villa said that even without Abat pointing it out, the President had decided on not extending Reyes' term.

For one, he said, Ms Macapagal was aware that then President Corazon Aquino also did not extend the term of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, now a senator.

For another, then President Ramos extended the term of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Arturo Enrile for some time, but eventually let him go.

But in a statement issued yesterday, Capt. Baron Cervantes of the Young Officers Union (YOU) pointed out that Abat's objection was "misleading."

Cervantes said that under the Constitution, the President had "the prerogative" to extend the term of the AFP chief of staff.

He also pointed out that when Abat was defense secretary, the term of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Clemente Mariano was extended.

Nevertheless, De Villa said he had also advised Ms Macapagal that the issue of constitutionality was deemed resolved by the Commission on Appointments when his own term was questioned in 1991.

"It was a test case," he said.

De Villa said that back then, they also reviewed the intent of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, and that they concluded that term extensions could not be done in the absence of a state of war or emergency.

He said Malacañang was aware of this long before Abat questioned Reyes' continued service as chief of staff.

Time to go

Maj. Gen. Jose Lachica, commanding officer of the AFP unit operating in Southern Luzon, said "no professional soldier would cling to his post when the proper time comes to hang up his uniform."

"If it's time for us to go, so be it. We have to follow it without questions asked," said Lachica, who is set to retire next month.

Lachica also said whoever would replace Reyes would "be looked upon by the whole AFP as the officer designated by the duly constituted authority, whom we are bound to obey in the chain of command." He said the senior officers in the AFP chain of command would also like to see the junior officers advance their careers.

In Davao City, Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Mindanao, said that while it agreed with Ms Macapagal's decision not to extend Reyes' term, it did not agree with the reasons and circumstances behind it.

Virador said the President should have immediately dismissed Reyes because he was one of the implementors of Estrada's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"But instead of listening to the people who put her in power, she allowed Reyes to stay put until the retired generals who have a grudge against Reyes put pressure on her," Virador said.

The Khadidja Moro women's alliance also demanded an immediate investigation of Reyes' accountability in the war that displaced about half a million Moro residents from their farms in Central Mindanao.

"Reyes' hands are tarnished with the blood of the Moro people," Khadidja chair Evelyn Carias said. ***With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Electoral backlash seen vs pro-Erap candidates

(From page A1)

"Personally, I wish her well. She is a lady who has undergone a lot of hardship in terms of the pressures brought upon her when she was first lady," he said, adding that as the wife of then Vice President Estrada, Ejercito had been very supportive of former first lady Amelita Ramos.

Backlash

The former President, however, predicted that the opposition's chances of winning were slim.

"This so-called electoral backlash will hit the whole ticket because of the issues (against Estrada). The Edsa forces are saying that before they campaign for 'Puwersa ng Masa,' they should first return the money stolen from the masses," Ramos said.

Last month, the former President said Ejercito "deserved our vote" when reports surfaced that she planned to follow the lead of former US First Lady Hillary Clinton, who ran and won a Senate seat in New York last year.

'Lightning rod'

Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo, one of 13 senatorial candidates for the ruling coalition, described Ejercito's candidacy as "unfortunate," saying she would become a "lightning rod" for future criticism against her husband.

"Loi, unfortunately, will be the lightning rod of the opposition senatorial slate because she happens to be an Ejercito–Estrada," Arroyo said in a telephone interview.

"It's unfair because she is a fine lady but since she has opted to join the fray, she will be absorbing all the attacks directed at Erap while her party mates will be spared from the attacks," he added.

He predicted that rivals would zero in on such issues as "the P8-million check deposited in her account that exceeds her cash in bank as stated in (the Estrada couple's) Statement of Assets and Liabilities."

Arroyo, a member of the House prosecution panel in Estrada's impeachment trial, was referring to a check issued by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that ended up in the account of the former first lady.

Singson claimed that the money came from the proceeds of a "jueteng" protection racket initiated by the previous administration.

The Estradas declared the amount of their cash in the bank as only P6.5 million as of December 1999.

Reverse campaigns

The congressman predicted that this year's election campaigns were bound to be different from those of past elections since the opposition would be on the defensive.

"Ordinarily, the opposition party attacks the administration party in an election. The reverse will happen in the coming May elections. The administration party will be on the attack while the opposition party will be on the defensive," Arroyo said.

In addition, he said that the coming campaign would also have a new feature—two parallel campaigns against the former President.

"Now, while the campaign is going on, the investigation of the ill-gotten wealth cases of the deposed president will also be taking place," the congressman said.

"At the same time, the administration ticket would also be attacking Erap. So you will find parallel moves, both attacking Erap—one through the Ombudsman and the other one on the campaign trail," he added.

Gloria campaigns

A day after saying that her administration's senatorial candidates did not need her help in campaigning, Ms Macapagal turned a groundbreaking ceremony for a hospital in Cavite into a campaign sortie for the People Power Coalition.

After the ceremony, looking fresh in a lime green dress, the President, speaking in Filipino, told Caviteños that "I can start campaigning for the senatorial candidates since the national campaign is open."

She praised Cavite Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., and his wife Lani Mercado for supporting her, and urged his province mates "not to forget those who will support Bong in the Senate."

Ms Macapagal said she would also campaign for Revilla and other local candidates under the Lakas party whom she would name after 45 days.

Reiterating that she wanted to usher in an era of "new politics," she also said the target of her government and the administration's candidates was to "win the battle against poverty within the decade."

Sentimental journey

The President was in Trece Martirez City for the groundbreaking ceremony of the $3.8-million Korea-Philippines Friendship Hospital, which is expected to be completed by Dec. 31.

Ms Macapagal traced her roots to Cavite, recalling that her great-grandmother, Escolastica Romero Macapagal, a midwife, was a Caviteña.

She said that the visit yesterday was a "sentimental journey" for her, because her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, had also come to Trece Martirez in 1964 to inaugurate a 50-bed wing of the Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital. The wing was named after her great-grandmother.

Ms Macapagal was ushered to the groundbreaking site by Revilla and his wife, Korean Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Oh Shin, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. and other officials.

No love lost for Estrada

(From page A1)

Valentine's Day picket at the Office of the Ombudsman on Arroceros Street in Manila, which was also intended to pressure Ombudsman Aniano Desierto into immediately initiating criminal proceedings against Estrada.

More than 100 activists belonging to the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and allied groups delivered to Desierto's office a giant red heart with big handcuffs—both made of paper and cardboard.

The handcuffs served as the customary arrow piercing the heart.

"The Macapagal administration should now investigate and prosecute Estrada and immediately issue an order for his arrest," said Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon.

"This love month, show your love to millions of people who ousted Estrada by leading him to his designated cell," he said.

Satur Ocampo, president of the party-list group Bayan Muna, said Estrada "wantonly violated laws pertaining to graft and corruption, bribery and perjury, and used the presidency as tool for plunder."

According to Ocampo, the "overflowing evidence surpasses the requirement for prima facie evidence."

"We insist on his immediate arrest," Ocampo added.

Symbols

Joi Doropan, spokesperson of Bayan-National Capital Region, said the handcuffs symbolized the people's clamor for the government to immediately arrest and prosecute Estrada, and the heart, the Ombudsman's heart.

"Desierto should now decide whether his heart belongs to Estrada or to the people. The people are watching him," she said.

Doropan also said that as his Valentine's Day gift to the Filipino people, Desierto should immediately file criminal charges against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan so the anti-graft court could order the deposed President's arrest.

She added: "Charge him, arrest him. This will be the best Valentine's Day gift Desierto can ever give us."

Ocampo said the upsurge in Estrada's net worth, estimated to reach P10-15 billion, was very suspicious and one proof that it comprised ill-gotten and laundered money.

He cited the latest sworn statement of assets and liabilities filed by Estrada and dated Dec. 31, 1999, which indicated that his net worth was only P35.8 million.

"Estrada raised his worth in just 31 months through dubious and illegal means, the same way (the late strongman Ferdinand) Marcos robbed this country three decades ago," Ocampo said.

He said the slow pace of investigation and prosecution of Estrada has given the ousted President more "buying time" not only to set up a defense but also to stir trouble and controversy.

Outfit

This early, the activists have prepared their idea of Estrada's official outfit in detention.

During the picket, they displayed a yellow shirt with a big black "P" at the back.

At the front of the shirt, letters likewise printed in black read: "NBP, ESTRADA JE, MMYN WI-123."

The letters stand for "National Bilibid Prisons, Estrada, Joseph Ejercito, *Mamamayan Winan-tu-tri* (The people were taken for a ride)."

Envelope that toppled Erap opened

(From page A1)

the important thing is the truth was out and that is all we are interested in as far as the Senate is concerned," Pimentel said.

Immaterial and irrelevant

Roco said it would have been better if the envelope was left unopened because the contents were already "immaterial and irrelevant" at this time.

Besides, he said, a sealed envelope would make a great tourist attraction because it would invite more attention from foreigners and Filipinos alike intrigued by "the envelope that caused the collapse of a government."

Roco suggested that the second envelope, which triggered the popular revolt that ousted Estrada, instead be framed and exhibited at the Luneta Park in Manila.

"I'm sure if they didn't open that envelope, and we put it beside Rizal's monument, it can become a tourist attraction," Roco said after the turnover ceremony at the Department of Education, Culture and Sports Central Office.

"People would say, 'So this is the envelope that made a nation change and a government collapse.' That's more valuable to me than an opened envelope. After all, we already know what it contains," he said.

Roco, who had earlier voted to reveal the contents of the second envelope, said opening the envelope now would "serve no purpose" because there was no impeachment court that would recognize the relevance of the act.

Even if the documents are turned over to the Office of the Ombudsman, these will still need corroboration from witnesses like Equitable PCI Bank executive Clarissa Ocampo and possibly, other bank executives and friends of the ousted President.

"Besides, they can use the evidence without opening the second envelope because everybody knows what's inside anyway," Roco said. "To me, we're losing a historical artifact; it started history. If they open it, it's going to be just another envelope."

At a news briefing after the opening of the second envelope, Desierto said, "We will now go to the process of determining where this money came from and where the money was paid to, in both debit and credit."

The Ombudsman said the bank records in the Jose Velarde account would support the case of perjury against Mr. Estrada, referring to his not making proper disclosures in his Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

P1 initial deposit

As reported in an INQUIRER report on Jan. 18, the Velarde account was opened with a P1 deposit on Aug. 26, 1999.

The next day the balance in Savings Account No. 0160-62501-5 at Equitable's Binondo-San Juan branch rose to P81 million, according to Pimentel.

The biggest amount withdrawn from the account was P500 million. This was most likely the money debited from the account and credited to the trust account which Estrada opened on Feb. 4, 2000 before Ocampo, Equitable senior vice president, for investment in the Wellex Group of William Gatchalian.

The savings account had a zero balance by the time it was closed on Nov. 13, 2000, the height of the "jueteng" scandal linking Estrada to the jueteng protection racket.

The letter of Dichaves requested Equitable senior vice president Romualdo Ang on Aug. 25, 1999 that he be allowed to open an account in the name of Jose Velarde.

"May I request that a savings account and a current account be opened with your Juan Luna branch for Jose Velarde c/o the undersigned," Dichaves said. "All other banking transactions of Jose Velarde shall be coursed through the undersigned."

Lawyer Pablito Sanidad, a private prosecutor in the impeachment trial who had opposed the opening of the envelope, said all the private prosecutors had known about the Dichaves letter.

Lawyer Romulo Capulong, one of the complainants in Mr. Estrada's impeachment case, wants handwriting experts to take a look at the Dichaves letter to determine the actual date it was written.

Inserted surreptitiously

Capulong, who witnessed the envelope's opening, said there were "many" indications that the letter had been "inserted surreptitiously to save the neck of Mr. Estrada."

He noted that the letter was apparently hastily written because it did not even bear a letterhead.

"It is quite strange that there should be a letter like this," Capulong said. "In the other fictitious account in the name of the dummy, there is no such document or letter."

Another thing that Capulong found suspicious was the fact that the second envelope was volunteered to the then House prosecution team in the impeachment trial by Equitable PCI Bank officials.

"This gave rise to the suspicion . . . that the bank would exculpate Mr. Estrada," he said. "But that won't hold."

Capulong said that this was the reason the prosecution team was reluctant to consider the letter as evidence.

"We anticipated that this second envelope had a bombshell which constitutes the fraudulent defense of Mr. Estrada," he said.

Bank affirms documents

But this was denied by Equitable Bank vice president Ceferino Ang who said that the bank merely turned over the letter in accordance with the impeachment court's order to hand over all pertinent documents relating to the Jose Velarde account.

On the Dichaves letter, Pimentel said the businessman "will now have his time to explain how come that he is involved in these accounts of Jose Velarde. The Ombudsman I am very sure will accord him his day in court."

Arroyo, a member of the prosecution team in the impeachment trial, said the documents in the second envelope would be of great significance to private prosecutors who will prove that Estrada, alias Jose Velarde, received millions of pesos from cronies through his bank account.

"The second envelope can be turned over to Justice Secretary (Hernando) Perez, and in particular to private prosecutors Eduardo de los Angeles and Ricardo Nepomuceno who helped us prove the cases of corruption and betrayal of public trust against Estrada," Arroyo said.

"It is they who can explain the entries in the statements of account inside the envelope and these entries will show the deposits made to the Jose Velarde account by cronies Mark Jimenez, Dante Tan, Lucio Co and William Gatchalian," he said.

Arroyo noted that while Dichaves had claimed the Velarde account as his, he and wife Abby also deposited funds into the account.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando "Nonoy" Andaya Jr. said Dichaves could be charged as an accomplice in the criminal cases filed against Estrada using the contents of the second envelope.

Desierto said his office would have to ascertain the real identity of Velarde since the "Jose Velarde" bank accounts would be indispensable in the criminal proceedings at the Sandiganbayan.

He stressed that the Special Preliminary Investigation Panel would settle this question when it announces the result of its preliminary investigation next week.

Desierto said that should the special panel establish that Velarde and Estrada "are one and the same person," the Ombudsman would automatically file a complaint with the Sandiganbayan for forfeiture of Estrada's alleged ill-gotten wealth, estimated at P20 billion.

The complaint for forfeiture, which was filed by private prosecutors and 82 "People Power II" groups last week, would be investigated separately from the seven complaints earlier filed by lawyers' groups and nongovernment organizations.

The seven complaints accuse Estrada, among others, of charges of graft, plunder, bribery, malversation of public funds and perjury. ***With reports from Cathy Yamsuan in Manila and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Saguisag wants Davide out

RENE Saguisag, a lawyer of disgraced President Joseph Estrada, yesterday asked Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Justice Artemio Panganiban to inhibit themselves from the case questioning the legality of the Macapagal presidency.

In a nine-page motion, Saguisag noted that Davide gave an anti-Estrada speech on Feb. 8 at the Bantay Katarungan forum while Panganiban insisted that President Macapagal-Arroyo had requested the high court to administer her oath as President on the morning of Jan. 20.

Saguisag said he found it curious that Panganiban would insist on this while Ms Macapagal had already denied making such request.

"As high a regard as we hold the two, they have with all due respect compromised themselves by indicating that they have thrown their weight on one side," said Saguisag. ***Dona Pazzibugan***

Priest defends snakes: No 'trapos'

(From page A1)

"We would like to request the editorial boards not to use reptiles to caricature traditional politicians," said Reyes, a pet owner whose animal wards include snakes and crocodiles.

"Animals don't have multimillion-peso bank accounts, they don't receive gambling (money) and are not involved in fraud," the priest argued during a visit to the INQUIRER.

"We are protesting these inappropriate images. Do animals have the same qualities as *trapos*? I don't think so, because I spend a lot of time with snakes," Reyes protested.

The priest was accompanied by other members of "Animals and Friends for Peace," as well as 12 baby pythons, which are all offspring of his 11-year-old python Carla, his bearcat "Obet" and a labrador named "Lucas."

The noontime visit to the INQUIRER was part of an animal field trip on Valentine's Day "to remind people not only of romantic love but also love for nature and love of country."

Reyes' group also brought along blowups of recent editorial cartoons of the INQUIRER and the Philippine Star portraying certain politicians as members of the animal kingdom. Captions included "Itigil ang pang-iinsulto sa mga hayop!!" and "This is not how to treat (snakes) in the year of the snake!"

The priest zeroed in on a Feb. 4 editorial cartoon drawn by popular PDI cartoonist Pol Medina. Former President Joseph Estrada and a bevy of his alleged cronies were drawn with bodies of snakes.

"I spend more time with snakes, maybe more than Pol Medina," said Reyes.

The outspoken priest said the field trip was meant to dramatize his group's call for "peace, clean elections and genuine politics" and for voters to shun *trapos*.

"If only animals could speak, they would say, 'Don't vote for *trapos*,'" Reyes said.

"INSULTING to animals," Fr. Robert Reyes gripes when he visits the INQUIRER office to denounce its editorial cartoon comparing snakes to corrupt politicians. JESS YUSON

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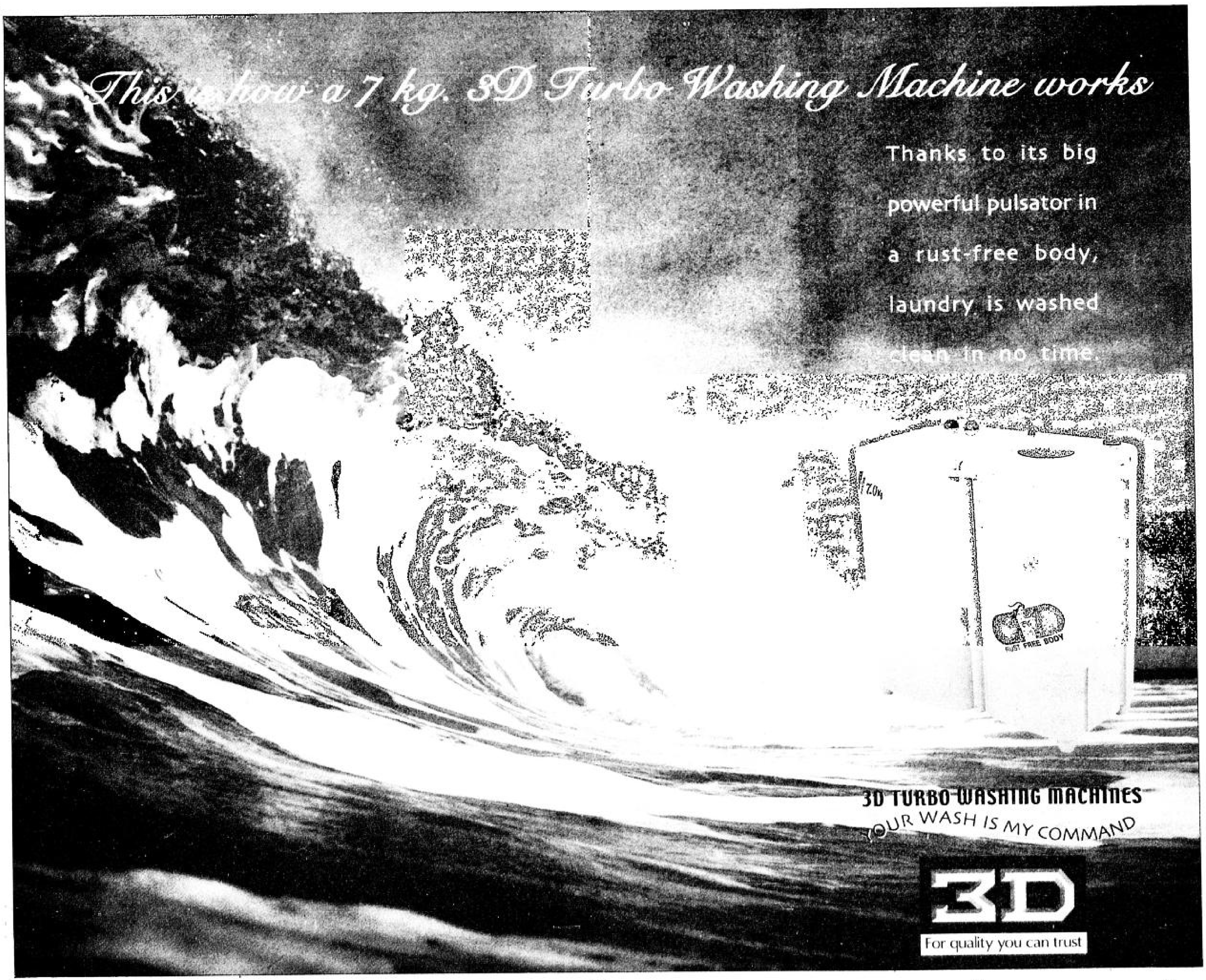

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Golf Tour resumes with John Hay Open

THE CAMP John Hay Open will fire off on Saturday in Baguio City for the second leg of the Philippine Professional Golf Tour, circuit founder Bob Sobrepeña of Fil-Estate announced.

A total pot of P700,000 is at stake, with the first two days allotted as usual to the pro-am event.

The champion will pocket P100,000. The winner in the CAP Seniors Challenge will earn P20,000.

The 60 or so starters will find the rejuvenated Camp John Hay course much tougher than the old American-designed course as the Baguio layout has been much-ballyhooed as the Augusta National of the North.

Rey Pagunsan, the former amateur standout, won the kickoff leg of the Tour in the MRT-Southwoods Open almost two weeks ago at Southwoods Masters for his first victory after turning pro four years ago.

Pagunsan will be back and he will get the usual challenge from Canadian Rick Gibson and Ruben Sasutil, who finished tied for second and Richard Sinfuego, who stepped very close to achieving his own breakthrough bid at Southwoods.

The John Hay leg coincides with the much-awaited Flower Festival in the City of Pines.

Roger Antonio, one of the big winners at Southwoods, will be shooting for more money in Baguio.

Aside from the P20,000 he pocketed as CAP Seniors Challenge champion, he earned P15,300 for finishing ninth in a group most of whom were not even born yet when he launched his pro career.

"John Jay is always known to be a level playing field where the big-hitters are forced to control their shots, much more their emotions. So this gives everybody almost an equal chance of winning," said Sobrepeña, chair of the Fil-Estate Group of Companies.

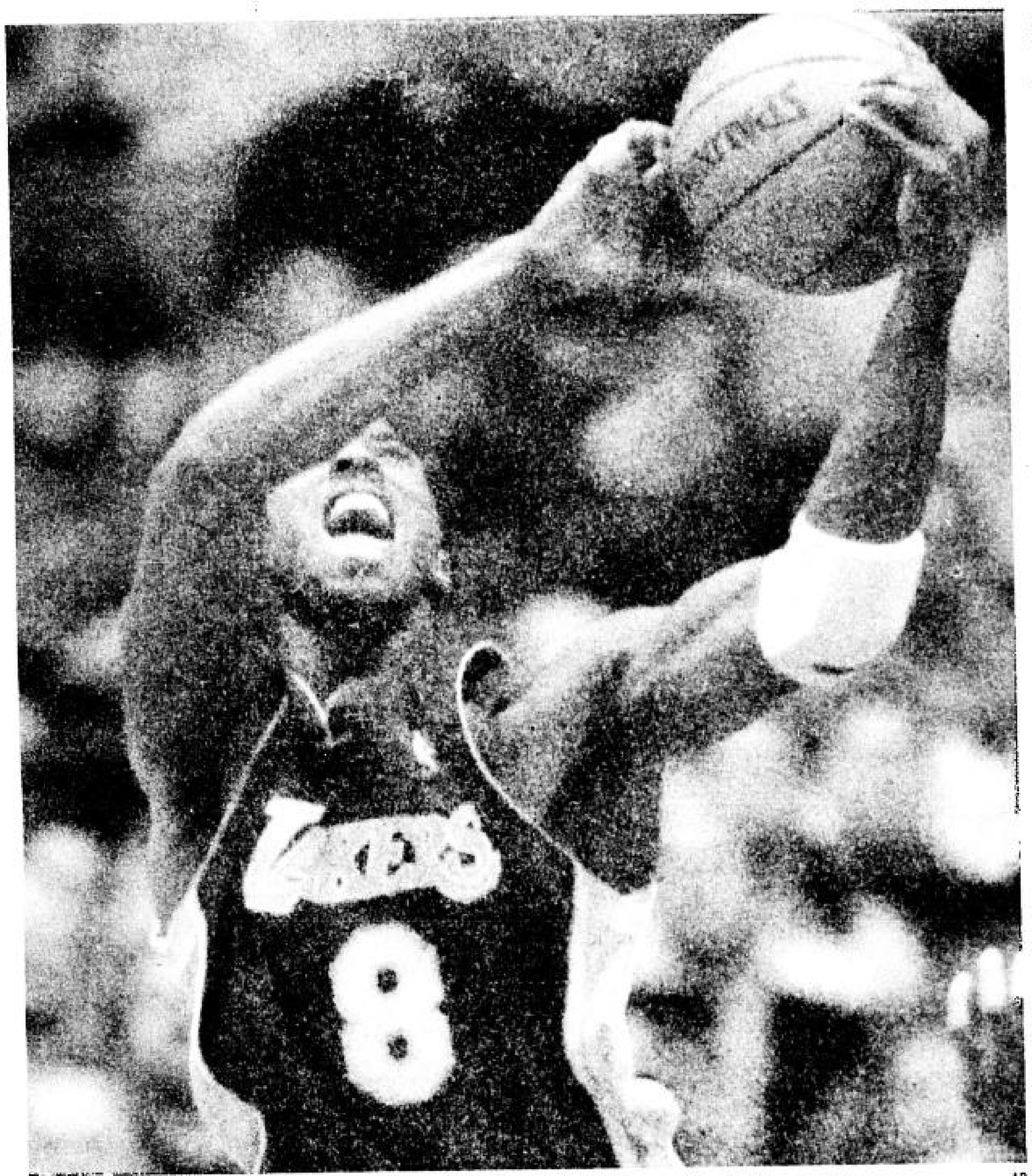
The score of the first two rounds of the pros in the pro-am will again count. The last two rounds of the pro event will be played Monday and Tuesday.

Baguio's government dignitaries and business executives have been invited to join VIPs and top honchos of Fil-Estate from Manila for the 36-hole pro-am which has a best-ball format.

One of the sentimental favorites is Mars Pucay, who learned the rudiments of the game at the old John Hay course way before it was renovated by Fil-Estate.

Pucay was the best local finisher when John Hay hosted the Philippine Open in 1997, sharing second place behind eventual winner Kevin Wentworth of the United States.

PAGUNSAN



BRYANT pulls down a big rebound in the fourth quarter.

AP

Bryant outshines Marbury

Lakers edge Nets in OT; 76ers, Raptors also prevail

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Kobe Bryant and Stephon Marbury had another head-to-head duel, and Bryant's three-point play with 4.8 seconds left in overtime outdid Marbury's career-high 50 points as the Lakers beat the Nets, 113-110, Tuesday night.

Bryant's game-winning play capped a 38-point performance and was the final highlight of a game that featured a 32-point, 14-rebound effort by Shaquille O'Neal in his return from a foot injury after a six-game absence.

The victory was the fourth straight for the Lakers, who are starting a six-game road trip, and snapped the Nets' season-high three-game winning streak.

Like the All Star game on Sunday, the final minutes were a showdown between Bryant and Marbury, only this time Bryant had the final say.

Raptors 120, Cavaliers 105

In Cleveland, Vince Carter scored 33 points, but was sitting down when Toronto opened a big lead in the second quarter. Carter scored 16 points in the third quarter and sat out most of the fourth as the Raptors won their third in a row to move four games over .500 for the first time this season.

Antonio Davis matched a season-high with 25 points, 15 on free throws—and added 13 rebounds for Toronto, which has won its last seven matchups with Cleveland. Mark Jackson had 16 assists.

The demoralized Cavaliers lost their eighth straight game.

76ers 107, Bucks 104

In Milwaukee, Allen Iverson scored 49 points and the 76ers staged a furious comeback in a matchup of the top two teams in the Eastern Conference.

The Bucks got 28 points from Glenn Robinson, 27 from Ray Allen and 20 from Sam Cassell and led 105-99 with 1:11 left. But they had eight fourth-quarter turnovers and blew a nine-point fourth-quarter lead.

This season, the Bucks have ended a seven-game losing streak to the New York Knicks; stopped an eight-game skid against the Lakers in Los Angeles; beat Detroit for the first time in four years at the Palace; and finally beat Denver for the first time in coach George Karl's three-year tenure.

Bulls 96, Hawks 92

After one month, nine days and 16 losses, the Chicago Bulls' franchise-record losing streak is over.

Marcus Fizer and Ron Mercer scored 19 apiece as the Bulls blew a 17-point lead before rallying for a 96-92 victory over the Atlanta Hawks at home.

Spurs 104, Mavericks 92

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan scored 28 points, reserve Antonio Daniels had 18, Danny Ferry made four of the Spurs' nine 3-pointers and Avery Johnson tied his season-high of 14 points in his first game in two months.

Duncan also grabbed 15 rebounds, while Ferry finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

Nuggets 96, Knicks 77

In Denver, Nick Van Exel had 24 points and 12 assists as the Nuggets returned to their home comfort zone.

Antonio McDyess added 17 points and 11 rebounds, and Raef LaFrentz scored 21 for the Nuggets, who had lost six of seven overall but improved to 21-6 at home.

Kings 97, Jazz 94, OT

In Salt Lake City, Bobby Jackson scored 17 points and made a late steal as the Sacramento Kings overcame an injury to Chris Webber to beat the Jazz 97-94 in overtime.

Webber, who scored 34 points, was carried off with 0.9 seconds remaining in regulation after collapsing with a sprained left ankle while driving the baseline. He was expected to be re-evaluated Wednesday morning.

Suns 93, Warriors 83

In Oakland, California, Shawn Marion had a career-high 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Jason Kidd had 14 points and 10 assists.

Marion scored most of his points on fast breaks, free throws or offensive rebounds as the Suns capitalized on the Warriors' poor shooting and league-worst defense for an easy win.

The Suns returned from the All-Star break to split the season series with Golden State and win for the third time in four games.

Meanwhile, after six years of losing hundreds of games on the court and millions of dollars at the bank, the Vancouver Grizzlies look ready to leave town—possibly as early as next season.

NBA commissioner David Stern met with team owner Michael Heisley in Washington on Monday and agreed that, considering the money the team is losing, it's time for the Grizzlies to find a new home.

It didn't take long for potential U.S. homes to begin wooing the Grizzlies.

New Orleans, which once lost the Jazz to Salt Lake City, was first to show interest. Doug Thornton, general manager of the New Orleans Arena, said officials plan to contact Heisley.

Other cities mentioned as potential destinations include St. Louis, Las Vegas and Nashville. Last week, Heisley said he'd already received interest from Louisville.

The Arrowhead Arena in Anaheim, California, also is a possible site for relocation, as is San Diego, although the Southern California city—like Las Vegas and Louisville—doesn't have a new arena.

NBA Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik has called Anaheim "potentially a very successful market for us," the Times said.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim, the Grizzlies' only legitimate star, said Vancouver has been good to him, but he understands the situation.

Complete results:

Charlotte 77, Indiana 66; Toronto 120, Cleveland 105; Miami 101, L.A. Clippers 99, OT; L.A. Lakers 113, New Jersey 110, OT; Sacramento 97, Utah 94, OT; Philadelphia 107, Milwaukee 104; Chicago 96, Atlanta 92; San Antonio 104, Dallas 92; Houston 99, Washington 89; Denver 96, New York 77; Vancouver 99, Boston 98; Portland 109, Minnesota 88; Phoenix 93, Golden State 83. ***AP***

Bong draws foe

GM BONG Villamayor failed to gain ground Tuesday, settling for a draw against Bangladeshi IM Ziaur Rahman in Round 8 of the 12th Goodricke International Chess Open in Calcutta, India.

The highest rated Filipino player was at 5.5 points, trailing GM Joseph Gallagher of Switzerland, who was at 6.5 after splitting the point with IM Sandipan Chanda. The Indian stayed at second with 6 points.

Bunched with Villamayor were Rahman and GMs Maxim Sorokin of Argentina, Andrei Kharlov of Russia, Dibyendu Barua of India, Evgeny Vladimirov and Dimitri Reinderman.

Sorokin and the top-seeded Kharlov played to a draw and so did Barua and national champion Abhijit Kunte, who was at 5 points. Vladimirov and Reinderman downed their rivals.

The three other Filipino bets—Nelson Mariano, Chito Garma and Idelfonso Datu—were also in the upper half of the 64-man field with 4.5 points each.

Garma beat S. Satyapragyan while Datu bested Deep Sengupta. Mariano drew with Alexei Khamatgaleev in the 11-round Swiss system event. *Roy Luarca*

Sports body to get IOC assistance

By June Navarro

THE INTERNATIONAL Olympic Committee has pledged monetary assistance to ease the financial burden of the Philippine Olympic Committee in carrying on with the Olympic movement in the country.

POC president Celso Dayrit said he got the assurance during a meeting with Olympic Council of Asia and the Southeast Asian Games Federation officials last weekend in Cambodia.

Dayrit said the Olympic Solidarity Movement headed by James Mclove assured National Olympic Committees, including the POC, they would be getting financial share from the earnings of the Sydney Olympics held last year.

Although the amount of financial support has yet to be determined by the OSM, Dayrit already praised the move, saying the POC will have a big opportunity to get on the right track.

Aside from monetary support, Dayrit said the IOC would also be doling out scholarship programs to deserving athletes recommended by the POC.

"But these athletes will be subject to approval depending on the criteria set by the IOC," said Dayrit.

Also during the said meeting, Dayrit lobbied for the inclusion of five events instrumental to the country's bid to regain its pride in the Southeast Asian Games.

Dayrit said host Malaysia turned it down but SEAG Federation officials offered to consider it once the final number of entries in each event per country is determined.

Fencing events such as men's foil, epee and sabre were scrapped together with double trap shooting and team event in billiards, events Dayrit said the country has good chances of snaring a medal.

POC threatens to suspend BAP

Dayrit receives subpoena on Tiny's ₱5-million case

By June Navarro

"THEY are killing the sport."

Thus said Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday after receiving the subpoena on the Basketball Association of the Philippines' case filed by the group of Quintellano "Tiny" Literal.

Literal's action stemmed from the POC's decision to recognize Freddie Jalasco as BAP president after Literal had claimed presidential victory of the association in an election in Angeles City.

As one of the respondents of the P5-million damage suit filed Tuesday at the Parañaque Regional Trial Court, Dayrit will have to answer the charges within 15 days. He will also have to appear before the presiding judge in the preliminary hearing.

The hearing, however, has yet to be scheduled since the case, which also has BAP president Freddie Jalasco, sailing's Claudio Altura, football's Rene Adad and rowing's Benjie Ramos as respondents, has yet to be raffled off.

"I don't think that's right. If this drags on, the POC will be forced to suspend the BAP," said Dayrit.

Last week, POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros raised the possibility of suspending the BAP should trouble spill over in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

Hontiveros cited an incident prior to the 1993 SEA Games in Singapore, where the POC took over from warring officials Pam Valdez and Soltero Tejada the affairs of gymnastics.

Dayrit also said the POC should be the last to decide on the fate of warring factions within the BAP.

"I believe the POC executive board decided objectively and had taken into consideration the recommendations of the arbitration committee," said Dayrit.

NSAs get warning

THE DAYS of "troublemakers" in the Philippine Olympic Committee may soon be over.

The POC Executive Board recently passed a resolution warning all NSA (national sports association) officials, coaches and athletes that they could face sanctions from the Ethics Commission "if they take actions that may destabilize and discredit any NSA and the POC."

The Ethics Commission is chaired by former POC president Gen. Rene R. Cruz (ret.).

The POC noted with concern recent developments clearly aimed at disrupting efforts by the Olympic body to settle complaints or dispute according to regular procedures as stated in the POC Charter.

One such negative action was the rally initiated by some NSA officials, using their athletes to air their grievances.

In the resolution, the POC referred to NSA officials, coaches and athletes who have: 1) resorted to the streets to air their grievances concerning their respective sports; and 2) indiscriminately involved themselves in political maneuvering in another NSA, aimed at destabilizing and discrediting such NSA or an NSA official.

Referring to the rally participants, the resolution says: "The POC is disappointed by the manner and behavior of such individuals who have disregarded the process laid out by the POC for handling of such complaints and deprived the parties concerned of the opportunity to present their own side in the proper forum."

Subic yacht heads Regatta Cup field

ORGANIZERS of the 9th President's Cup Regatta set Feb.19-24th in Manila Bay and Nasugbu Bay have released the list of boats entered in the event led by defending two-time champion Subic Centennial, owned by the syndicate headed by Judes Echauz.

Entered in the ocean racing class aside from the Subic Centennial are Karakoa of Ray Ordoveza who won last year's Raja Muda Cup in Malaysia and Hong Kong boats Hi-Fidelity and Stella.

Hi-Fidelity, owned by Neil Pryde, won the President's Cup Regatta in 1997 and just last month, went home with the Sir Thomas Lipton Challenge Cup award for its over all performance in southeast Asian regattas. Stella was champion in the Singapore Straits regatta a month ago. Other entries are expected in this category of the event backed by major sponsors PLDT and Nokia.

In the ocean cruising class of the event organized by the Manila Yacht Club and with Club Punta Fuego, Maya Maya Yacht Club, and Taal Lake Yacht Club as resort sponsors, last year's China Coast Cup champion Hocux Pocux II leads the early cast together with 1998 King's Cup Regatta champion Maligaya and regular President's Cup regatta campaigner Intrigue.

Recent Montemar Race champion Lethal Weapon, 1998 champion Jo de Ros, Puerto Galera's Rags, Viking Express, Vivaldi, and first timer Zappler are already confirmed entries in the cruiser races class of the regatta also supported by Coca-Cola, Nestle Phils., San Miguel Beer, Tanduay, Maersk-Sealand, Phil. Navy, Department of Tourism, Philippine Cost Guard, Boating World Makati, Neil Pryde, 105.9 DWLA and official hotel Traders' Hotel.

"We still expect more entries in the different classes, we just hope the winds favor us during the race days next week," said Ray Ordoveza, chair of the organizing committee and himself a leading contender in the open racing class competition.

Knicks-Jazz duel on '13'

TWO of the top teams in the NBA, the New York Knicks and the Utah Jazz, lock horns at 5:30 p.m. today on IBC 13.

New York brings the league's best defense to the Jazz homecourt as well as a potent scoring sock anchored on All-Stars Allan Houston and Latrell Sprewell and three-point threat Glenn Rice.

CHESS WINNER

Elizabeth C. Coloso, Bacolod Camia Jaycees president, won the chess gold medal in the women's division of the recent National Games of the Junior Chamber of the Philippines in Dagupan City. Representing Area IV, Coloso swept her five assignments and crowned herself champion.

Makati hosts women's 10K race Sunday

DEFENDING champion Christabel Martes will have her hands full in her bid for a back-to-back win in the Avon Running 10K National Championship set this Sunday in Makati City

The event is co-sponsored by The Peninsula Manila, Avon Teen Colors Lipshine and Avon Fashion Missy Collections.

Aside from 1999 champion Hazel Madamba, the race organizers bared the list of the invited seeded runners from different parts of the country who will be contesting the P25,000 first place purse, the biggest for a local 10K race, plus a trip to Budapest in Hungary for the Avon running Global Women's Circuit 10K Championship.

Heading the list is Avon Run Bacolod winner Marigen Campos, while from Cebu are the duo of Ruvelyn Legaspi and Nesiree Mendoza.

Davao will be represented by Milo Marathon finalist Raquel Velasco who has a best time of 45:35 in the 10K distance, and the 5,000 and 10,000 meters PRISAA champion Jamie Atuel of Holy Cross of Davao with her personal best of 48:15.

Running sisters Ellen and Lorna Tolentino, a namesake of the movie star, will be Cagayan de Oro's bets. Ellen was a Milo Marathon finalist last year while Lorna was let year's Avon regional run champion in Cagayan de Oro.

Baguio is also represented in the Avon Run finals with Flordeliza Cachero carrying the city's name while Benguet has the distinction of producing defending champion Christabel Martes.

Other noted runners who are expected to participate are Enate Sayrol, Juvy Madredia, and former walkathon champion Melinda Manahan from Naga City.

MCC chessfest Sunday

THE SECOND leg of the Metropolitan Chess Club 2050 below active chess tournament kicks off on Sunday at the 2/F PCI Bank Arcade, Greenhills Shopping Center. The one-day event is open to all beginners, unrated and rated players with ratings not over 2050. Call 826-8560 for details. The top ten finishers will be selected through a seven-round Swiss system with the champion getting the top prize of P3,000.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

Sports on TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Duke Blue Devils vs Virginia Cavaliers at 8 a.m. (r-3:30 a.m.), Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs Rutgers Scarlet Knights at 10 a.m. on ESPN; NBA – New York Knicks vs Utah Jazz at 5:30 p.m. on IBC.

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, Final Day at 8 a.m. (r), Tour Highlights at 8 p.m. on Star Sports

PBA ALL-FILIPINO CUP

Shell whips Tanduay, 93-86

GAMES TOMORROW
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m. — Alaska vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m. — Purefoods vs Pop Cola

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

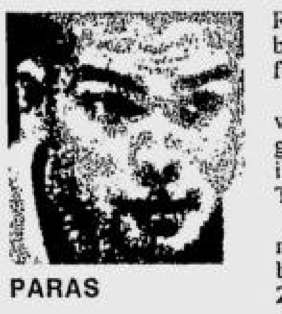
EVEN Perry Ronquillo was surprised that Shell Velocity is among the leading team in the PBA All-Filipino Cup.

But the manner which the Zoom Masters carried it out wasn't surprising at all, beating Tanduay Gold in all aspects for an easy 93-86 win last night at Philsports.

Benjie Paras shone for the first time in four games, firing 23 points to lead five other Zoom Masters in double digit en route to their third win in four games.

"I never thought we'll be here," said Ronquillo. "What a refreshing change. What a pleasant surprise."

You can't blame him from feeling that way. Paras has been struggling to get in shape and Shell had a modest improvement in the pre-season.



PARAS

But everything came together for the Zoom Masters last night, fighting off the Rhummasters' gutsy stand before buckling to work early in the fourth.

Mike Hrabak, who many thought was a patsy after two forgettable games, took charge in that span, scoring all his 10 points to inflict Tanduay's third loss in four outings.

Shell's balanced scoring also neutralized Tanduay's edge in rebounding (32-44) but it was the Zoom Masters' hustle that spelled the difference winning on assists (21-15) and blocks (6-0).

Jun Marzan turned in 17 points, Rob Wainwright had 13, Chris Jackson and Dale Singson 10 each for the Zoom Masters.

"I'm glad that we get to play kind of games that test our character," said Ronquillo. "But I expect the road ahead to be a lot tougher."

In the second game, Sta. Lucia Realty subdued Barangay Ginebra, 80-68, for its first victory after three straight losses. Ginebra fell to 2-2.

SHELL 93 – Paras 23, Marzan 17, Wainwright 13, Jackson 10, Singson 10, Hrabak 10, Esplana 8, Telan 2, Lim 0, Dela Cruz 0.

TANDUAY 86 – Carlaso 26, Honliveros 21, Locsin 12, Hawkins 12, Webb 7, Balingit 4, Santos 2, Realubit 2, Arboleda.

Quarters: 21-22, 42-44, 67-64, 93-86

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Lendl, Rose go to Hall of Fame

NEWPORT, Rhode Island—Ivan Lendl, a Grand Slam champion, former Davis Cup hero and busy tennis parent, will now be a Hall of Famer, too.

Lendl and Mervyn Rose, an Australian star from the 1950s, will be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on July 14. Their elections were announced Tuesday.

"It's the ultimate honor in the game," said Lendl, who won eight major titles and was ranked No. 1 for 157 consecutive weeks in the 1980s. "The ceremony in July will be a great closure to my career and a part of my life which is over now."

Lendl, 40, has kept a low profile since retiring in 1994. Bothered by a bad back, he restricts his tennis to practice with his children. Four of his five kids, all 10 and younger, play the New England tournament circuit.

"They're still very young, so I don't have to do much moving," he said. "I don't play because No. 1, my back hurts, and No. 2, I can't hit the ball the way I would like. It's too frustrating, and I feel there's no need to put myself through it."

Lendl, who was born in Czechoslovakia and became a US citizen in 1992, won 94 singles titles and spent 270 weeks at No. 1. He reached eight consecutive US Open finals, winning in 1985-86-87. He won the French Open three times and the Australian Open twice.

Lendl had a 10-0 record in Davis Cup matches, including doubles, and led Czechoslovakin to its only title in 1980.

"Every kid when they're starting, they have their dreams," he said. "It was a dream of mine as a kid to be the best player in Czechoslovakia and the best in the world. I was fortunate enough that my dream came true."

In rivalries with Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, Lendl more than held his own, but he never won Wimbledon. He was runner-up twice and lost in the semifinals five times in his sport's biggest event.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

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Race 2—1. The Mailman/Full Blast 2. Profit Margin 3. Waving Oscar 4. Lady Queen
Race 3—1. Vigor 2. Aly Sam 3. Diamond Forever
Race 4—1. Great Year 2. Latin Beat 3. Dynamite Miss
Race 5—1. Powerhouse 2. Silky Sullivan 3. Galvalume 4. Man of the Hour
Race 6—1. Belle D Amour 2. Breakaway Artist 3. Kentucky Gold
Race 7—1. Madam Victoria 2. Final Justice/Burning Heart 3. Sweet Inspiration 4. Magara
Race 8—1. Call to Action 2. Top Secret 3. Asalto
Race 9—1. Walang Hanggan 2. Timber Nectar 3. Prestige 4. Al's Princess

Wazzzzup?

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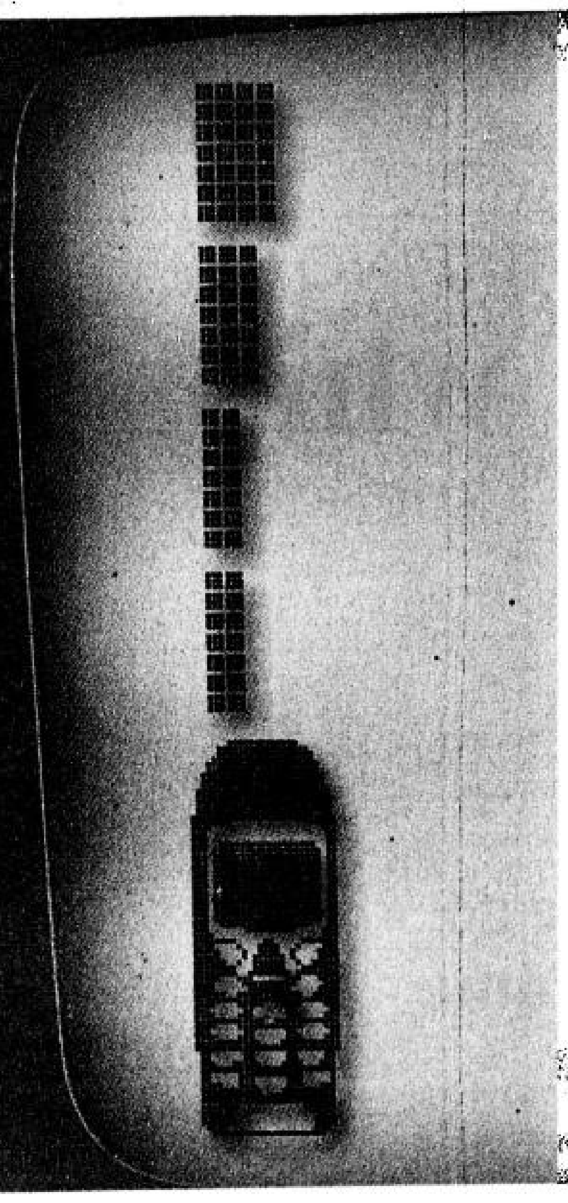

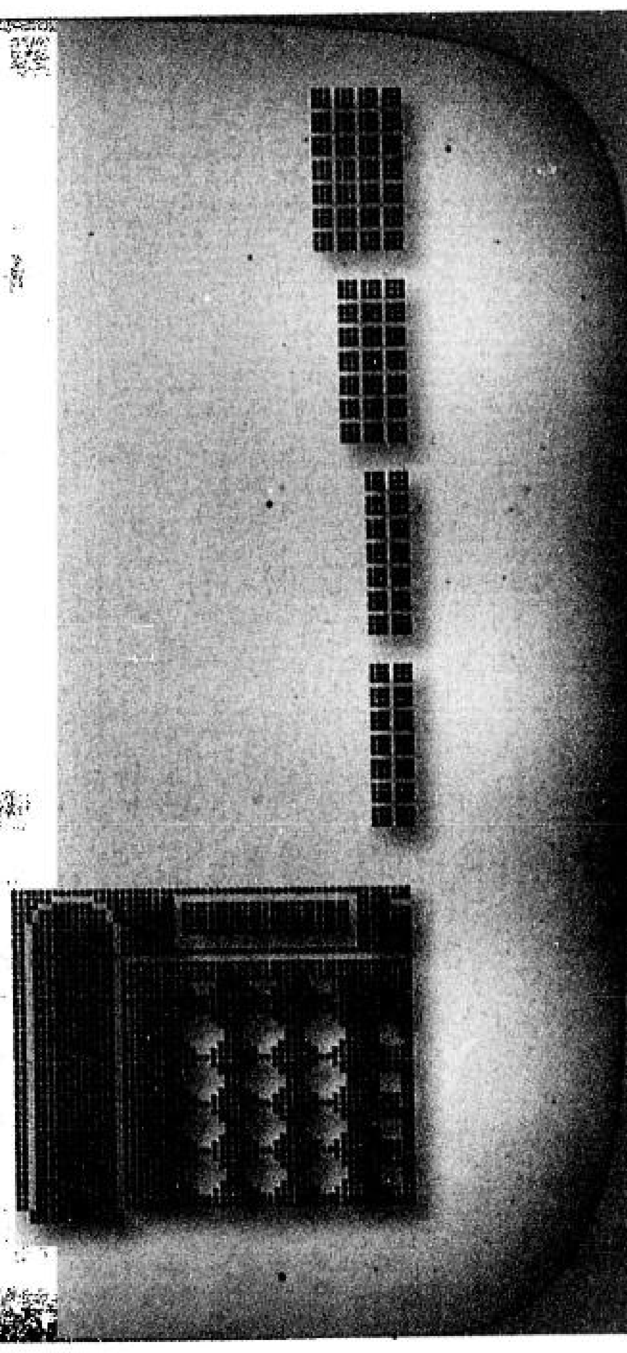

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CAV faction wants Agarao out A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Trash used in Caloocan 'slur drive' A20

Rep. Candazo charged with beating caddie

Solon's girlfriend included in complaint

By Agnes E. Donato

MARIKINA Rep. Romeo Candazo and his reported girlfriend, Suzette Lopez, have been charged with abuse of authority, physical injury, grave threats and slander for allegedly beating up a woman caddie in a Marikina golf course on Feb. 8.

But lawyer Jesus Huertas, chair of Barangay Inarawan in Antipolo, said politics had nothing to do with the charges filed by caddie Perla Bernolirao, 33, of Sitio Inalsan, Barangay San Juan in Antipolo, before the city's prosecutor's office.

Candazo earlier denied the beating incident ever happened. He said Bernolirao's charges were only meant to taint his reputation in view of the coming elections.

But in her affidavit, Bernolirao maintained that Candazo and Lopez beat her up at about 1:30 p.m. on Feb. 8, while they were playing golf at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club in Barangay Inarawan.

Bernolirao also accused Candazo of cursing her and Lopez of grabbing her neck and hitting her with a putter.

Huertas said Bernolirao sustained bruises on the right knee and strangle marks on the neck.

Bernolirao said Candazo was disappointed with the way the game started and became more upset when she failed to find the ball that had earned him a penalty.

Upon reaching the 12th hole and Candazo still had not succeeded in regaining the points he lost, he allegedly started to throw balls at Bernorilao, Huertas said.

Bernolirao then asked Lopez to get another caddie but Lopez did not want to, preferring to swap caddies with Candazo. An argument ensued during which the congressman allegedly tried to strangle Bernolirao.

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BLOOMING

EDWIN BACSMAS

A family tends to its flower vending trade beside a flyover post at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas that is suddenly abloom with campaign posters.

MANZANO

Edu: The people know the truth

By Leah Salterio

MAKATI Vice Mayor Edu Manzano yesterday said the recent attacks against him allegedly by the city's barangay officials are "politically motivated."

"Maybe you should ask the people of Makati and they will tell the truth," Manzano, who is running for mayor in the May elections, said.

He said a press statement from the opposing camp should not be the basis in judging his performance.

"We know what that was for," he said, referring to the statement issued by the barangay leaders on Tuesday. "You can go around and ask the people of Makati and they know the truth.

"I don't want to go into specifics," he added in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

Manzano is the administration party candidate that will be pitted against former Metro Manila Development Authority chair Jejomar Binay.

Binay's wife, Dr. Elenita Binay, is the current mayor of Makati.

The barangay leaders in their statement criticized Manzano after he said in an INQUIRER interview that came out Monday that he has visited every nook and cranny of the city.

They declared that Manzano has not visited their areas since he was elected in 1998. They also said Manzano is unaware of the real conditions in the poor side of the city.

They resented Manzano's description of certain parts of Makati as squatter colonies lacking in basic facilities like roads and water. But they also admitted there are small areas in their communities which do not have direct access to MWSS water pipes since the areas are located in the upper portions of a former military camp.

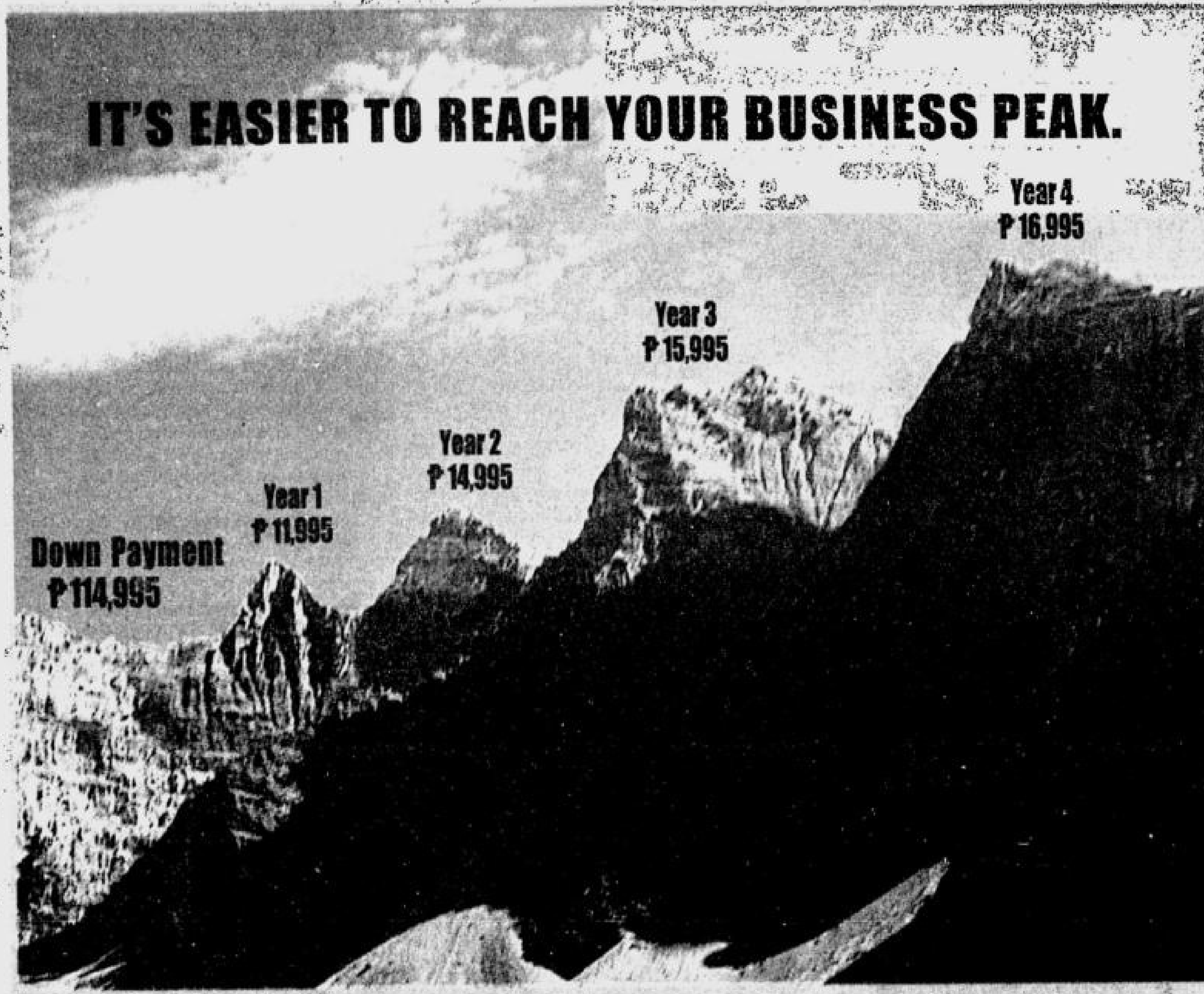
The barangay leaders had also accused Manzano of not knowing the city's boundaries, noting that he even campaigned outside Makati in 1998.

"When you start shaking the hands of the people and walk from one barangay to another, are you still conscious that you're stepping on Makati soil," Manzano said.

"When I extend my hand, I don't really care if I'm already at the Taguig or Manila boundary," he added.

In Monday's Interview, Manzano said he believes he and other show biz stars who are joining politics have a "fighting chance" in the elections despite the backlash against actor-politicians following the ouster of Estrada.

He said in the Interview that the League of Barangays does whatever Binay tells it to do.



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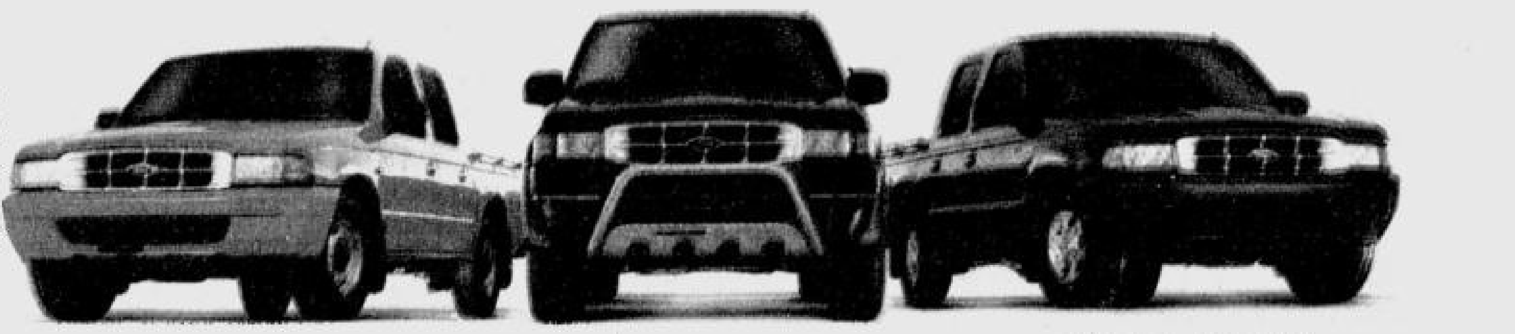

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Trash used in Caloocan 'slur drive'

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALOOCAN Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo yesterday accused Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio of ordering the city's barangay captains to deliberately refuse to collect garbage to discredit him in his reelection bid.

Malonzo, who will run for a third and final term against Asistio, threatened to file administrative charges against the barangay captains, particularly Asistio's supporters, if they continued to ignore his directives on garbage collection.

"Since I assumed office in 1995, the Asistios have made it a point to smear my name by influencing their barangay supporters not to collect garbage," Malonzo told the INQUIRER.

"They know that when Caloocan is dirty, it will reflect on my administration."

Caloocan is arguably among the dirtiest cities in Metro Manila with garbage piling up daily on the streets.

Malonzo said garbage has accumulated in Bagong Barrio, Grace Park and Dagat-Dagatan since barangay officials there are said to be mostly Asistio supporters.

"If you see a dirty barangay in Caloocan, for sure its captain is an ally of Asistio," he said.

But Asistio described Malonzo's accusations as "mere imagination" and proof of his "insecurity."

He said there is no need to smear the mayor's claim since "it has long been stinking."

Asistio said the garbage problem could only be blamed on Malonzo, whom he claimed could not govern "so he's resorting to all these lies."

He said the people know these and are sick and tired of Malonzo's lies.

But Malonzo expressed confidence that the Macapagal administration would support his fight against the supposed negligence of some barangay officials.

The previous government, he said, had often reversed the local government's decision to suspend erring barangay captains primarily because of party allegiance.

Malonzo, a key player in the anti-Estrada campaign, was suspended by the deposed President when he allegedly realigned local government funds. The Supreme Court later reversed the decision.

Malonzo said Caloocan's new composting and segregation system as required by the Solid Waste Management Act would virtually solve the long-running garbage problem in the city.

CAV faction wants Agarao out

By Agnes E. Donato

A BREAKAWAY group of the cause-oriented organization Crusade Against Violence (CAV) yesterday demanded the ouster of president Carina Agarao for allegedly failing to account for P1.25 million in organizational funds.

But Agarao denied the accusation and said the money had been accounted for.

She said the group led by Juliet Cruz does not belong to CAV but to the rival group, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), led by lawyer Dante Jimenez.

"So what gives them the right to ask for an accounting of funds?" Agarao said.

Cruz's group said it had been asking Agarao since last year to account for the funds. But the widow of slain human rights lawyer Clarence Agarao ignored the request, the group said.

Cruz said P1 million of the missing funds was donated to CAV by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and P250,000 was given to CAV by then Social Work and Development Secretary Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Agaro denied CAV had received P250,000 from Ms Macapagal. She claimed she does not handle CAV finances and said she transferred the financial operations to the office of the chairman when she was elected president.

Former VAC treasurer Virginia Castillo, under whose tenure the missing funds were supposed to have been given to the group, said she already turned over receipts and records to PCSO on how the P1 million was spent.

"The money has already been accounted for," Castillo said.

Cruz questioned Agarao's use of the ambulance donated by the PCSO for her personal use and insisted that no accounting had been done of CAV's missing funds.

She added that investigation was also being made on some of CAV's missing funds, which were put in a time deposit at PCIBank in Ayala, Makati.

Agarao again denied the accusations.

Claiming to have the majority of CAV members, Cruz warned that the group would be left with no other option but to impeach Agarao if the latter refused to step down.

The CAV is composed of about 40 members, most of whom are relatives of victims of heinous crimes.

Earlier, Agarao also claimed that Cruz's group was only being used by Jimenez for his political ambition.

Jimenez was CAV president but formed the VACC allegedly due to Agarao's poor management style.

But Cruz denied this. "In fact, we already tried to get our dissent aired through the media, but Carina's connections drowned out our voices," Cruz added.

Agarao was recently appointed commissioner of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) and member of the PNP Conscience Committee.

Cruz also accused Agarao of "blatantly and capriciously violating the tenure of office of the CAV president" by remaining president despite the one-year term mandated in the CAV by-laws.

But Agarao claimed there is no such provision in the CAV by-laws and said a president can be reelected.

"In fact, Dante Jimenez was president for two years," she said.

AGARAO

The hypocritical clergy

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

POLICE Officer 2 (PO2) Manuel Taytayon represents a new breed of rookie cops that the Philippine National Police (PNP) hires every year.

Taytayon ran over five pedestrians in Pasay City while he was driving his jeep under the influence of liquor.

Instead of taking his victims to the hospital, Taytayon left all of them for dead.

Taytayon's story is no longer news. Most of our new cops are abusive. They think the world owes them a living.

***

Taytayon probably thought he would not be identified by witnesses because his private jeep didn't have a license plate. However, one person who saw the incident was able to identify him.

Driving a vehicle without license plates is already illegal. And yet, many cars and jeeps driven by cops don't have license plates.

What does this mean? That the owners of such vehicles are up to no good.

***

There are thousands of vehicles running in the streets which don't have license plates. Many of them are not driven by abusive cops but by ordinary citizens who are supposed to be law-abiding.

These vehicles running without license plates are fresh from the factory. But they are allowed by the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to run in the streets while their license plates are still being manufactured. Why?

These new vehicles can be used in crime and their owners can't be traced.

***

A former Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight stewardess who now works for a five- star hotel was abducted by youths who were on board a new van last December. She was snatched by the "rich-looking" young men while she was waiting for a ride to work at about 7 a.m. in full view of many people in Cubao, Quezon City.

Luckily, she was able to escape when the van stopped for gas in a Laguna town.

But she was not completely lucky. The van didn't have license plates. When she reported the abduction to police, they didn't know how to go about the investigation.

***

The LTO, in coordination with law enforcement agencies, should launch a campaign to apprehend vehicles that don't have license plates.

Vehicles with no plates should be impounded. Nobody should be spared.

Cars, jeeps, vans and trucks with no license plates are potential getaway vehicles of criminals.

***

Have you noticed some "blue" guards lugging M-16 Armalite rifles while escorting armored vans loaded with money?

These security guards pose a hazard to innocent civilians because most of them are not trained to handle high-powered guns. Many bystanders could get killed or wounded in the crossfire in a firefight between these guards and bank robbers.

Why can't those security guards be issued the safer but more lethal shotgun?

The argument that a shotgun has less firepower than a high-powered firearm is stupid. In an urban area, a shotgun is a better weapon than an M-16 Armalite.

***

In New York City, where bank robberies are committed many times in one day, policemen in patrol cars carry shotgun as a second weapon, the first being their service pistol.

Only members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team carry M-16s and other high-powered guns. These cops are trained to handle special weapons (M-16 is considered a special weapon in the city).

If shotguns are good enough for cops in patrol cars in New York City, why aren't they good enough for members of the Philippine National Police (PNP)?

***

Now, back to Taytayon.

Why was he driving a jeep without license plates when he knew well that it was illegal?

The answer is obvious: Most cops think they are above the law.

That's the mentality of most of our policemen.

***

The Catholic clergy in this country sees the mote in other people's eyes but they don't see the mote in theirs.

Jaime Cardinal Sin accused deposed President Erap of being immoral and of being a thief. But did he see what his subordinate priests and bishops did to a Catholic radio station?

The Catholic radio station where I once worked was plundered by a bishop with the help of a fake military colonel.

The bishop had a secretary with whom he carried on an affair. The liaison was known to the members of the radio station staff who were scandalized. The woman now has a child by this bishop.

Cardinal Sin should first clean up his backyard before trying to clean up other people's backyards.

DAR

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January 15, 2001

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4.	Gertrudes Montilla	RT-3836	1278	47.0265	Moises Padilla
5.	Montilla Sisters Agricultural Corp./ Ma. Teresa Montilla, Et. Al.	T-151366/ T-191209	242-A	30.5193	Binalbagan
6.	Roberto J. Cuenca M/t Agnes Aguirre	T-84726	851-E	301.3925	La Castellana
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8.	Lucas Lacson y Avanceña	T-21281	384-B	43.5001	Talisay
9.	Lucas Lacson y Avanceña	T-2750	384-C	7.0289	Talisay
10.	Letecia L. Montelibano	T-85579	3	38.2950	E.B. Magalona
11.	J.M. Consing Agricultural Corporation	T-103169	667-B	22.1310	E.B. Magalona
12.	Ernesto Zaldarriaga, Et. Al.	T-19141	937	130.1673	Cadiz City
13.	Diosdado Ferraren	T-2677	3065	22.9878	San Carlos City
14.	Diosdado Ferraren	P-1056	3064-A	23.3050	San Carlos City
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16.	Hofeliña Agricultural Corporation	T-71539	2971-A	116.7918	Sagay City
17.	Benjamin E. Estacio	T-5653	1897	10.9687	Cadiz City
18.	Benjamin E. Estacio	T-47718	1929	10.3655	Cadiz City
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20.	Traders Royal Bank	T-131665	H-158633	22.0306	Ilog
21.	De Castro Development Inc.	T-59358	334-B	27.8893	Manapla
22.	De Castro Development Inc.	T-59358	372	27.3845	Manapla
23.	First Philippine International Bank	T-137767	1810-C	50.0000	La Castellana
24.	Lourdes Vda. De Alba, Et. Al.	T-70641	326	21.8264	Murcia
25.	Socorro Montinola	T-67318	2	42.6694	Victorias
26.	RAJAV AGRI. LAND CORP.	T-174037	9-B-2	10.8421	Victorias
27.	RAJAV AGRI. LAND CORP.	T-174035	7-A	22.2763	Victorias
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29.	Agustin Montilla, Jr. Agri. Corp.	T-81072	1372-A	89.3114	Isabela
30.	Teresita Estacio	T-114400	1	45.1281	E.B. Magalona
31.	Lourdes Garcia	T-114398	2	45.1280	E.B. Magalona
32.	Pablo Jison	T-26834	662-C	47.5912	E.B. Magalona
33.	Maybank-Bacolod Branch	T-148447	663-A	2.6829	E.B. Magalona
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Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. 6657, you are hereby notified that your landholdings listed above are now covered under Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

In view hereof, may we invite you to a meeting anytime 10 days after publication of this notice at MUNICIPAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE where the property is located and other matter pertaining to the coverage.

You are further informed of your right to select and retain an area in accordance with Section 6 of R.A. 6657, which should be more or less contiguous. Failure to appear on the said meeting or choose your retained area will mean, that you are leaving to us the direction of the same.

As per E.O. 405, dated June 14, 1990 we will request to the Land Bank of the Philippines to determine the value of the land acquired property, pursuant to Section 17 of R.A. 6657. Thereafter, we shall advise you of the valuation of your property through a Notice of Land Valuation as soon as we receive LBPs Memorandum of Valuation.

We anticipate your presence and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ALEXIS M. ARSENAL
ARDO/Concurrent PARO II

(PDI – Feb. 15, 2001)

Bombing survivors to sue LRTA

By Jerome Aning

SURVIVORS of the December bombing of a Light Rail Transit coach in Sta. Cruz, Manila plan to file civil charges against LRT authorities for their alleged negligence in safeguarding passengers and for refusal to extend financial help to the victims.

Families of the victims, who are still confined at the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, yesterday told reporters there are already moves among the survivors to consolidate claims against the LRTA.

The victims and their families are also scouting for a lawyer to assist them.

They said they planned to file the civil charges because they could no longer afford the hospitalization and medical fees. Many of the victims were poor residents of northern Metro Manila.

At least 22 people were killed and about 100 others were injured in the explosion, one of the five that struck the metropolis on Dec. 30.

Hospital staff said 12 bombing survivors were discharged last week after they were made to sign promissory notes so they would be compelled to pay the balance of their bills or face estafa charges.

One victim, Joel Atienza, who lost both legs, has incurred bills amounting to P1,266,219.32 as of last week. His expenses may further go up because doctors have not decided to discharge him.

Another victim, Joan Go, already has bills amounting to P815,530.69 and she remains in the intensive care unit. She sustained severe burns in various parts of the body.

Also still confined in the hospital are Roselyn Santiago, Ferdinand Canlas and Toriao Jomarwen.

Atienza's sister Elizabeth told reporters the P10,000 financial assistance given them by the LRTA and the P20,000 given by former President Joseph Estrada were not enough.

The families of the victims said security lapses on the part of the LRTA allowed the bombers to plant the explosive.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, February 15, 2001
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 9:1-13**
Gospel: **Mk 8:27-33**

Jesus set out with his disciples for the villages around Cesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him, "Some say you are John the Baptist; others say you are Elijah or one of the prophets."

Then Jesus asked them, But you, who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." And he ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus then began to teach them that the Son of Man had to suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. He would be killed and after three days rise again. Jesus said all this quite openly, so that Peter took him aside and began to protest strongly. But Jesus turning around, and looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter saying, "Get behind me Satan! You are thinking, not as God does, but as people do."

Commentary:

Sometimes, rumors can be really nasty and you get to find out only from other people about the wicked things that they are saying about you. It is then that you comfort yourself with the trust of friends who, hopefully, know better than to believe these rumors. In the end, however, neither public opinion nor the trust of friends should dictate the way we are to live our lives. Ultimately, because we are accountable only to God, we can dare to make personal decisions in conscience and thus express who or what kind of person we intend to be.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, U.P. P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Website: http://www.cnl.net/claret

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW: BILL OF RIGHTS)/REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE/EVIDENCE)—Extrajudicial confessions; right to counsel—Extrajudicial confessions are presumed voluntary, and, in the absence of conclusive evidence showing that declarant's consent in executing the same has been vitiated, such confession will be sustained. It also appears that accused-appellant has been duly assisted by counsel during the making of his sworn statement/confession. The right to counsel does not mean that the accused must personally hire his own counsel. The constitutional requirement is satisfied when a counsel is (1) engaged by anyone acting on behalf of the person under investigation or (2) appointed by the court upon petition of the said person or by someone on his behalf. Besides, accused-appellant did not object when counsel represented him during the investigation. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, People v. Maneng, G.R. No. 123147, October 13, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Five injured in expressway accident

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEl Rosario family thought it was the last Valentine's Day they would ever get to spend after their vehicle turned turtle yesterday morning on the North Luzon Expressway in Caloocan City.

Police, however, reported there were no fatalities in the accident.

Dolores del Rosario, 46, Giovanni Gabriel, 36, Oliver Samson, 16, Ryan, 22, and Carlo Cabongan, 18, all residents of Sto. Niño, Meycauayan, Bulacan, were taken to the Manila Central University Hospital for treatment, said PO3 Rodelio Asuncion of the Caloocan Traffic Management Unit.

Gabriel, driving a Toyota Tamaraw FX, tried to overtake another vehicle on kilometer 12 of the expressway at about 5:30 a.m. when the van's right rear tire suddenly exploded and caused the vehicle to turn upside down, pinning the passengers inside.

The Del Rosarios had just come from a party in Manila and were on their way home.

Three hours after the accident, factory worker Edita Espina, 43, was hit by a speeding jeepney while she was crossing Rizal Avenue Extension on her way to the Gotesco Grand Central mall in Caloocan.

Allan Medina, 28, of Daang Bakal Street, Tinajeros, Malabon, was driving the jeepney (DJL-560) that ran over Espina, a resident of Marulas Street, Caloocan.

Medina, who is facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in serious physical injury, is now in the custody of the Caloocan police.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

SM CENTERPOINT 7149322 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3	DTS	CAST AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA IYO

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	FAMILY MAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	NURSE BETTY
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	FAMILY MAN
4	DTS	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
7	DTS	CAST AWAY
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CAST AWAY
10	DOLBY SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8088782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	102 DALMATIANS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
10	ULTRA SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BODY TO BODY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY

SM ILOILO 3200422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
8	ULTRA SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA-7 GLORYA

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1 CAST AWAY
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 FAMILY MAN
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1 BOUNCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 WHAT WOMEN WANT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 CAST AWAY THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 NURSE BETTY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 102 DALMATIANS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 FAMILY MAN in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 PROOF OF LIFE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 CAST AWAY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 FAMILY MAN in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 NURSE BETTY in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1 CAST AWAY THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 FAMILY MAN in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 102 DALMATIANS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 NURSE BETTY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 BOUNCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) FAMILY MAN
2 (SDDS) 102 DALMATIANS
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY
4 GOLD (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BOUNCE
6 GOLD (SDDS) RESERVE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 [illegible] NURSE BETTY
9 [illegible] WHAT WOMEN WANT
10 [illegible] BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 (DTS) LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) FAMILY MAN
2 (DTS) LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 FAMILY WIFE
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 CAST AWAY
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) 102 DALMATIANS
5 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 HAPLOS
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5 VIRGIN WIFE
6 CAST AWAY
7 FAMILY MAN
8 102 DALMATIANS

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
1 TALAHIB AT ROSAS
2 LITTLE HEROES IN CHINA
3 MEN
4
5
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
1 HAPDI SA TAG-INIT
2 BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
3 THUNDER MISSION
4

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BOOBA
2 VERTICAL LIMIT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 HAPLOS
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 VIRGIN WIFE
A LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5 NURSE BETTY
6 HAPLOS
7 (DTS) FAMILY MAN
8 (SDDS) 102 DALMATIANS
9 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
5 FAMILY MAN
6 (DOLBY) 102 DALMATIANS
7 (DTS) CAST AWAY
8 IKA-7 GLORYA
9 VERTICAL LIMIT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) CAST AWAY
2 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3 102 DALMATIANS
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
6 FAMILY MAN
7 (DOLBY) NURSE BETTY
8 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 (DTS) SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
4 CAST AWAY
5 (SDDS) 102 DALMATIANS
6 (DOLBY) BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
7 (DOLBY) FAMILY MAN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
Lords SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
Jennet VIRGIN WIFE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 CAST AWAY
4 VIRGIN WIFE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 CAST AWAY
2 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5 FAMILY MAN

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
2 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 VIRGIN WIFE
5 IKA-7 GLORYA
6 VITAL PART

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
2 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3 FAMILY MAN

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 (DTS) WHAT WOMEN WANT
3 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
4 102 DALMATIANS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) VIRGIN WIFE
2 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
4 (DTS) CAST AWAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) 102 DALMATIANS
2 IKA-7 GLORYA
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY
4 VIRGIN WIFE
5 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 CAST AWAY
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 IKA-7 GLORYA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 CAST AWAY
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 IKA-7 GLORYA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) [illegible]
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 102 DALMATIANS
2 CAST AWAY
3 WHAT WOMEN WANT

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 102 DALMATIANS
4 VIRGIN WIFE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) 102 DALMATIANS
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
3 VIRGIN WIFE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 IKA-7 GLORYA
2 THE CONTENDER
3 VERTICAL LIMIT
4 VIRGIN WIFE

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
2 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
3 VIRGIN WIFE
4 102 DALMATIANS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CAST AWAY
2 BOUNCE
3 PROOF OF LIFE
4 (DTS EX) VITAL PART

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

MIDNIGHT SCREENING

CAST AWAY PG-13 • THE FAMILY MAN PG-13

FEBRUARY 14, 16 & 17

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Jolina raises 'Red Alert' at Robinsons

JOLINA Magdangal explores a new genre in her new album from Star Records, "Red Alert All Hits Dance Remix." She experiments with her remix or club music versions of "TL Ako sa Iyo," "Laging Tapat" and "Paper Roses."

To promote the album, Jolina performs live on Feb. 18 at the fountain area of Robinsons Galleria, and on March 4 at Robinsons Place Imus. Both shows start at 4 p.m.

MAGDANGAL

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD
STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS
e-mail: htc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING
Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7809-14
① CAST AWAY
② VERTICAL LIMIT
③ FAMILY MAN
④ NURSE BETTY
⑤ HAPLOS
⑥ BOUNCE
⑦ 102 DALMATIANS

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IMUS (046)875-3838
① VERTICAL LIMIT
② NURSE BETTY
③ FAMILY MAN
④ CAST AWAY
⑤ HAPLOS
⑥ 102 DALMATIANS

BACOLOD (034)441-0463
① VERTICAL LIMIT
② BOOBA
③ CAST AWAY
④ RED PLANET
⑤ SUPER IDOL
⑥ DUDE, WHERE'S MY CAR

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	VITAL PARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	NURSE BETTY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	IKA-7 GLORYA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE
ODEON	CAST AWAY
ODEON-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
ROBEN	VIRGIN WIFE
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
TIMES	SCARY MOVIE / MEN OF HONOR
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
QUEZON-1	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR	VIRGIN WIFE
REMAR-2	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
OCEAN CINEMA-A	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
OCEAN CINEMA-B	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-2	102 DALMATIANS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-2	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-6	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-12	NURSE BETTY
CINEMA-14	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-3	BOUNCE
CINEMA-4	NURSE BETTY
CINEMA-5	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-6	FAMILY MAN

Merk sings at Tower

POP jazz artist Richard Merk will have a post-Valentine show today at Tower Records in Glorietta, Makati, to promote "Jazz in Time," his debut album from Premium Star Records.

Richard is expected to sing several cuts from "Jazz in Time" such as a jazzed up rendition of "Hello," "Every Breath You Take," "Fallin'," and "My Cherie Amour."

An autograph signing session will follow the mini-concert.

The new album contains 11 jazzed up popular mainstream songs.

"Jazz in Time" is available in CDs and cassettes in all leading record bars nationwide.

Musical treats at Dusit

DUSIT Hotel Nikko Manila extends its Valentine musical treat by presenting Jacqui Magno in a concert tonight at Ciao Bar-Ristorante.

League of Cayuca, led by violinist Jay Cayuca, takes over Ciao tomorrow night, Feb. 16.

Saxophonist Eddie K brings back his distinct musical style on Feb. 17.

From Feb. 13 to 16, avail of Dusit romance packages (deluxe room at P3,888 and executive suite at P5,888) for free entrance to the show.

For inquiries and reservations, call 819-2559 or 867-3333 extesion 3205 or 3131 to 35.

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NOW SHOWING
CAST AWAY
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February 15 - Thursday
5:00 PM - Cast Away
7:50 PM - CLOSED
(LRP/ Warner Bros.)
10:40 PM - Cast Away

PAY IT FORWARD
Kevin Spacey / Helen Hunt
opens Wednesday Feb. 21

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula! A Journal of Philippine Cinema and learn more about Comedy King Dolphy and other Filipino artist, Movie fans & Idols.
Watch out for our 4th issue WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!
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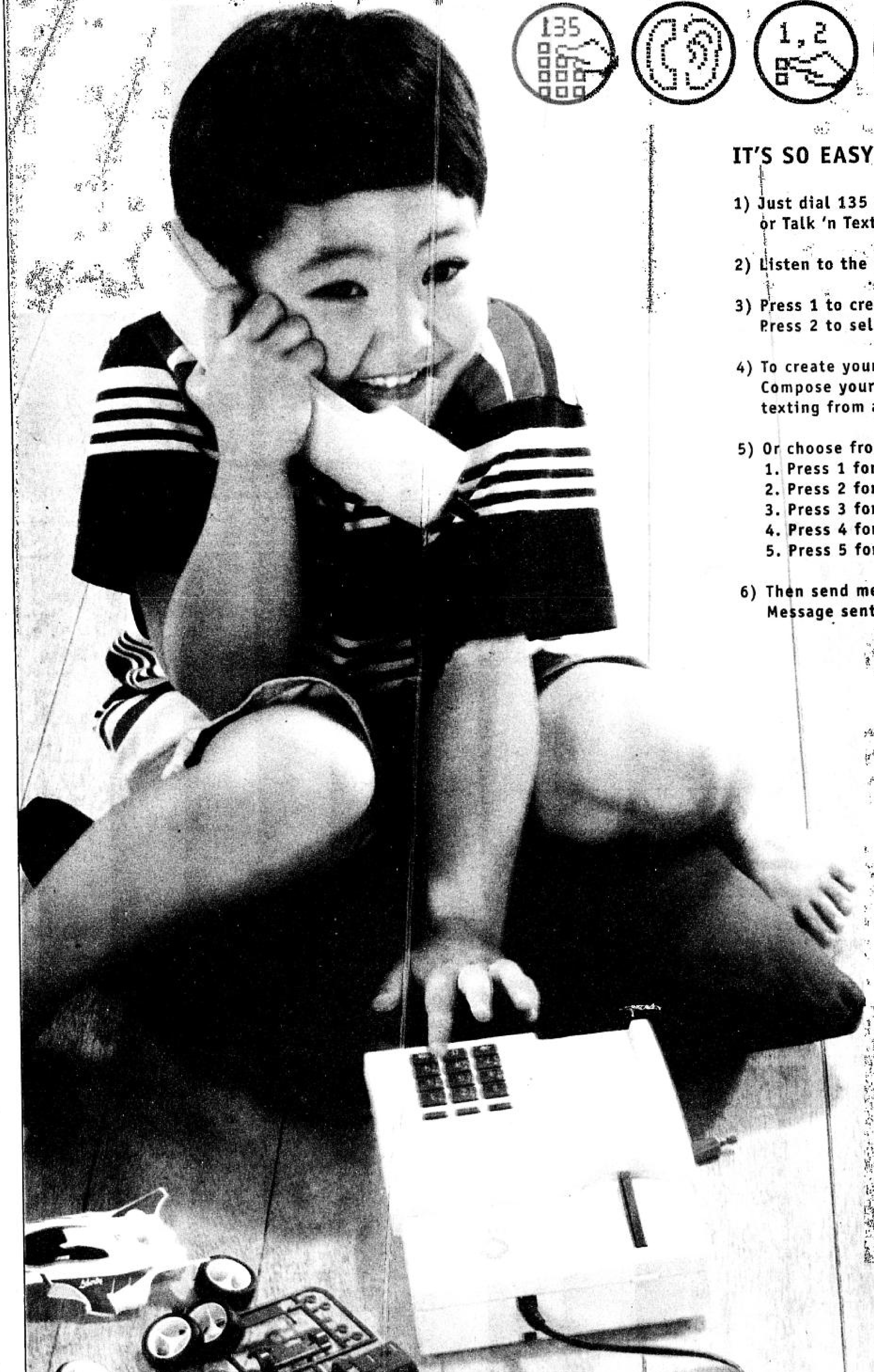

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A time to separate

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JUST last week, a TV feature on **Tom Cruise** and **Nicole Kidman** waxed ecstatic about the popular Hollywood couple's utter love for each other, even after 10 years of marriage. No seven-year itch for Cruise and Kidman, who were expected to grow old beautifully together, like **Paul Newman** and **Joanne Woodward**.

Well, a few days later, all of Hollywood was rocked by the news that Cruise and Kidman were calling it quits. No, there was no third (or fourth) party involved, and the official reason given for the split was "work pressures."

Going into more details, friends of the couple explained that their shooting schedules on their separate starrers kept them apart for weeks and even months, and that weakened their bond as a married couple. Out of sight, out of mind—and heart?

But weren't the couple together for three long years when they shot sporadically for **Stanley Kubrick**'s last film, "Eyes Wide Shut," in London? Uh, yes—but the movie ended up adding to their woes because it was an unflinching look at marital infidelity and jealousy and, to do justice to their roles in the film, Kidman and Cruise had to confront their own ambivalent feelings on those subjects.—Well, if you say so!

More credible is the take of another friend on the break-up: To him, the villain was the couple's superstardom itself.

"They were so popular that everybody wanted a piece of them so it was hard for them to be intimate with each other," he said.

Cruise and Kidman fell in love when they costarred in "Days of Thunder" a decade ago. They share a joint fortune of over a hundred million dollars, and have two adopted children.

Another show biz couple headed for splitsville is the three-year romantic partnership of **Winona Ryder** and **Matt Damon**. This time, there is a third party: star of tomorrow **Penelope Cruz**, whom Damon starred with in "All the Pretty Horses."

Since Ryder and Damon weren't married, their break-up is not as big a deal as the Cruise-Kidman separation, but Ryder is still said to be disconsolate after the end of her romance with Damon.

As for Cruz, she says she's never had it so good, both in her career and her love life. Well, what goes around, comes around . . .

TV treats

SATURDAY, Feb. 17 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies (replays on Feb. 22 at 5 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 11 a.m.): **Timothy Hutton** sloves a baffling case in "Golden Spiders." In the film, the crime fighter has no idea that he's about to be dragged into a world of greed, extortion and murder when a mysterious young eyewitness to a kidnapping seeks his help.

Sunday, Feb. 18 at 9 a.m. on Star Movies: "Willy Milly" stars **John Glover**, **Patty Duke**, **Pamela Segall** and **Eric Gurry** (replays on Friday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m.). In the comedy film, 14-year-old tomboy Milly wants to become a real boy. She resents the fact that boys seem to have more advantages, power and respect.

One day, during a solar eclipse, she concentrates on her deepest wish. The next morning, to her astonishment, it has come true. Mom and Dad are shocked, and Milly, now Willy, decides to leave her girl self behind and become a "real" man, setting off on a calamitous adventure full of sexual ambiguity.

Monday, Feb. 19 at 7 a.m. on Star Movies: "Celebrity Profile" showcases the life and career of versatile actor **Samuel L. Jackson** (with replay on the same day at 8 p.m.). The program includes photos from Jackson's childhood, college years and early theater days, as well as clips form his biggest films, like "Pulp Fiction" and "The Negotiator." Plus interviews with Jackson, the members of his family, and his friends, like **Morgan Freeman**, **John Travolta**, **Halley Berry**, **Charles Dutton** and his wife **Latanya**.

At 7 p.m. on Channel [V] Int'l., "Billboard US Countdown" presents a broad spectrum of musical styles as the Hot 100 Singles chart spotlights the latest and hottest hits in the United States.

At 2 p.m. on Star Movies: "Lake Placid," starring **Bill Pullman**, **Bridget Fonda** and **Oliver Platt** (replay on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m.). A quiet, remote lake is suddenly the focus of an intense search for a crocodile with a taste for live animals—and people!

MTV RELAUNCH PARTY

Boy band Plus One graces MTV Philippines' "The Rebirth Launch Party," Feb. 17, 8 p.m. at The Fort. Plus One has half-Filipino Jeremy Mhire as one of the members. They will perform their hit song, "Last Flight Out," from their debut album, "The Promise." Also guesting is Atlanta based-band Collective Soul, who recently collaborated with Elton John for the song "Perfect Day" from their latest album "Blender." Local talents such as Pops Fernandez, Lani Misalucha, Parokya ni Edgar, Eraserheads, Rivermaya, Wolfgang and Slapshock will also perform during the party. Major sponsors are Coca-Cola, Smart Zed, San Miguel Beer and Nescafé Frothé. The event is co-sponsored by Petron Blaze, Philips, Cool Air Chewing Gum, Italianni's, TGI Friday's, Outback Steakhouse, Sari-Sari, J18 Youngwear and Milkwear. Radio stations are dwKC-FM, dwRX 93.1, 99.5 dwRT, 89.9 dwTM, The Hive 100.3, Joey@92.3 Rhythms and NU 107. Official hotel is Hyatt Regency. Official carrier is Northwest Airlines.

Band music all night long at Borakay sa Parañaque

AS A post-Valentine treat, Borakay sa Parañaque holds a free-for-all, all-night shindig featuring the Symposium and Monopoly bands tomorrow, Feb. 16, from 8 p.m. till the wee hours.

Free lighters will be given for every purchase of San Miguel draft beer.

Located along Ninoy Aquino Avenue in San Dionisio district, Borakay sa Parañaque is a one-stop market place of fresh seafood, fruits, vegetables, fish and meat, all from reputable suppliers nationwide.

One-third of the complex has "paluto" stalls whose cooks are experts at dishing out gourmet Filipino, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and other cuisines.

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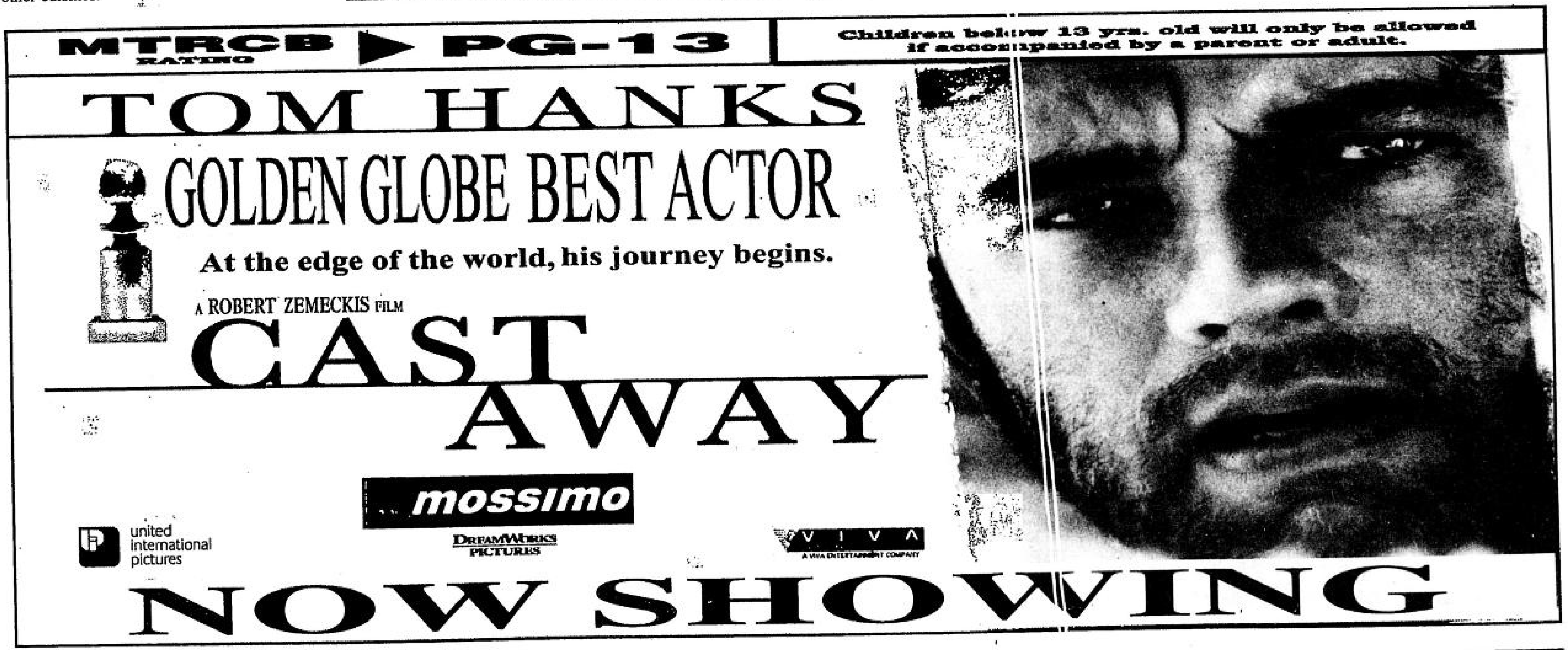

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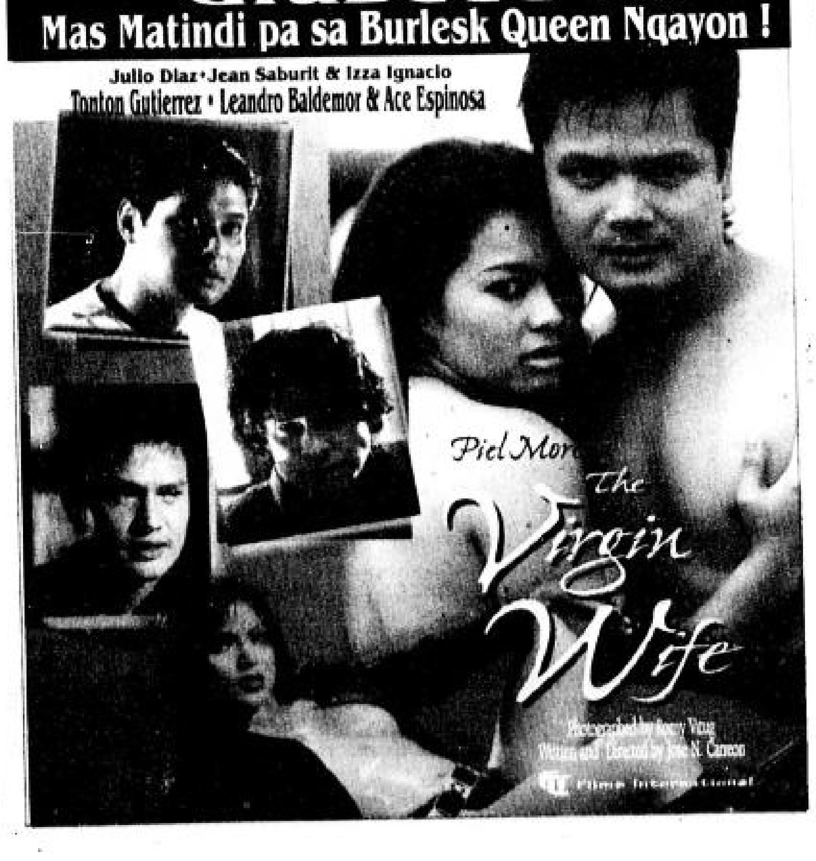

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Travolta, 'Battlefield Earth' lead nominees for 2000's worst

LOS ANGELES—John Travolta's "Battlefield Earth," which got gleefully vicious reviews when it came out in May, now has even more marks of dis-stink-tion.

The movie received eight Razzie nominations—worst picture, director, screenplay, actor, screen couple and three supporting actors—as the Golden Raspberry Foundation picked contenders Monday for 2000's worst movies.

"Showgirls" is the all-time Razzie Award nomination leader with 13, but the number of categories has been trimmed to nine.

Still, the sentiment against "Battlefield Earth" is more overwhelming than it was against "Showgirls," which wound up winning seven, Raspberry founder John Wilson said.

"I'd say 'Battlefield' is pretty much a shoo-in," he said.

Adam Sandler's "Little Nicky," "Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2" and "The Next Best Thing" tied for second in the dishonor list with five nominations apiece.

"The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas" joined them in the worst picture category.

The foundation has 503 voting members consisting of critics, filmgoers and people who work in the entertainment business.

Winners will be announced March 24 during a news conference on the eve of the Academy Awards.

The Golden Raspberry Foundation won't have a ceremony this year to present its $4.27 trophy, a gold-painted, golf-ball sized plastic raspberry atop a film canister.

"I don't think this year's pictures are worthy of a ceremony," Wilson said.

Travolta was a double nominee in the worst actor category, getting nominations for "Battlefield Earth" and "Lucky Numbers."

In addition to Travolta and Sandler, worst actor nods also went to Leonardo DiCaprio ("The Beach") Sylvester Stallone ("Get Carter") and Arnold Schwarzenegger ("The 6th Day").

Worst actress nominees were Kim Basinger ("Bless the Child" and "I Dreamed of Africa"), Melanie Griffith ("Cecil B. Demented"), Madonna ("The Next Best Thing"), Bette Midler ("Isn't She Great") and Demi Moore ("Passion of Mind").

Worst director nominees: Joe Berlinger for "Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2," Steven Brill for "Little Nicky," Roger Christian for "Battlefield Earth," Brian de Palma for "Mission to Mars" and John Schlesinger for "The Next Best Thing." *AP*

JV's ex is 'a lot happier now'

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

LONG before **Patty Betita** hit the headlines, when she was having **JV Ejercito**'s baby, I already knew the inside story. But since Patty is a good friend, I decided not to comment about the issue back then. I know she was going through a lot so I was just there for her but not intrusively.

Patty has bounced back after that tumultuous episode of her life.

"I'm a lot happier now," Patty said recently. "I've moved on but JV and I remain civil each other."

So what are their plans for their love child **Emilio**, whom they fondly call **Mio**? "JV has Mio fetched every weekend," she said. "He fulfills his obligations as a father. Mio is turning one this March. We're not going to have a big party. Just family and close friends.

"I don't know what JV's plans are. If he wants to give our son a party, then it's fine with me."

I could not help but ask Patty what her sentiments are regarding the downfall of JV's dad **Erap**. Out of *delicadeza*, she didn't want to answer but I egged her on.

"I was in the US when it all happened but we were all glued to our TV sets watching the developments at Edsa," the former model recalled. "I didn't get to see the part though when JV was crying like a baby *daw*. My friends told me about it *lang*. Mio was back here with his *lola*.

"In a way, I'm glad I was abroad that time *at ayokong madamay sa intriga*. My life is so peaceful now. As long as I have Mio, I know everything will be alright."

Isn't Mio a constant reminder of something she would rather forget?

She smiles, "No *naman*. I have no regrets. Mio is like his dad in many ways. JV will always be my son's dad. That can't be taken away from him. The love may be gone but the memories remain."

Girl talk

PINKY Amador, Jackie Castillejo, Delamar (of RX 93) and I were guests on the pre-Valentine show of "D-Day" last Monday. **Dina Bonnevie** asked us what our expectations for Valentine's Day were, who we wanted to spend it with, what we would want to receive and other love-related matters.

Today the three of us will be joining Dina again to share with her audience how our V Day turned out and to see if our answers last Monday came true.

Since love is still in the air a day after Valentine's (or did the air become polluted because your date was a bummer?), allow me to let you in on our girl talk (some of the lines here were said off-cam).

Dina: "My boyfriend and I had a spat during my birthday on Jan 27. We reconciled last week *lang*. In time *ba* for Valentine's? *Siyempre nagpa*-cute *ako nang konti. Nagpahabol ako!*"

Jackie: "My sis Dyan keeps telling me that if she had known marriage was so much fun, she would have gotten married earlier. While *ako* still searching."

Delamar: "I won't hesitate to ask a guy out if I know he likes me and I kinda like him too. Some guys just need a little push. In fact, I just did, give a little push. Okay *naman* our date. Nothing will happen *kasi* if *'pareho kayong naghihintayan.*"

Pinky: "I'm in a long-distance relationship right now. At least *wala nang* day-to-day maintenance. But of course it can get lonely when you're apart for so long."

Dina: "The problem with some guys is that they project this tough image. *Kunwari* they don't need you. But deep inside they're dying and hoping you would call them. Men play more mind games than women do."

Jackie: "One way to ask your crush out *na 'di* obvious would be to tell your girlfriends to join you and then back out at the last minute so you and your crush are left by yourselves. I did that once. I invited the whole group to watch a movie, including my crush. We were in the theater already when I started calling my friends. *Kunwari* surprised *ako* that they couldn't make it. *Yun pala* scripted. My crush didn't have the slightest idea."

Delamar: "Ever since my radio team-up with Chico became popular, listeners have been wondering why we just don't end up together. You know how it is with some of your guy friends. Click *kayo* as barkada but if you fall in love it might ruin the friendship. And there are guys *na kahit* cute, *'pag walang* electricity, friends *lang talaga kayo*. With Chico and me, how boring *naman* if at work we're together *na, hanggang bahay pa*."

Dina: "Guys should be more imaginative when it comes to gifts. Roses wither. Chocolates go stale. It would be nice to get something out of the ordinary. Something alive."

Pinky: "National anthem *na siguro ng* long-distance lovers *ang* "Get Here." Once when I could not take it anymore, I sang "Get Here" to him on the phone. Corny *na kung* corny but when in love *ka* nothing's too corny for you. It worked! *Lipad siya dito bigla.*"

Mighty Mike

COUNCILOR **Mike Planas** can hardly contain his excitement. His wife **Pat-P Daza** is due to give birth this June and after the May elections he could very well be the one in Congress to represent Quezon City. It's going to be a one-on-one battle between him and Sen. **Nikki Coseteng**.

Based on Mike's track record, I see no reason why he shouldn't win. Besides, President **Gloria**'s administration really needs young blood like him.

How does Mike feel about the rivalry? "I think the people are wiser," he said. "Politics is not anymore about who has the more money."

As for his impending fatherhood, Mike goes, "We're expecting our baby on June 12. *Biruan nga namin ni* Pat-P, we will name the baby Kalayaan. *Hanggang* birthday *ng* baby *namin* nationalistic *pa rin 'no?*"

Winning the elections and having a new baby simultaneously. No victory could be sweeter than that.

Success and happiness cannot find a more deserving couple than Mike and Pat-P.

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Valentine month full of red letters for Backroom artists

BACKROOM Artists will give you several good reasons to celebrate Valentine with zest as they mount shows tailor-suited for the love month.

Ai-Ai de las Alas will be at Bayawan City, Negros Oriental, for the annual town fiesta with Ara Mina on Feb. 16. On Feb. 23 and 24, she mounts her own people power at the Music Museum with a satire show, "PP2: Remember Me!" which pays tribute to the colorful personalities behind the second Edsa Revolution. On Feb. 28, she will be appear in Willie Revillame's concert at the Music Museum, together with the Big Thing Band and Vanessa del Bianco.

The country's premier vocal harmony group, The Company, will be at Ratsky's Malate for a special show, "Pop-Jazz @ Ratsky's" on Feb. 15. On Feb. 16, they will be one of the featured artists on the Love Radio Anniversary at the Hard Rock Café. Then on Feb. 21, they will rock hard again at the Hard Rock Café in a special show, "Wrock at the Hard Rock."

Dessa will be featured in a post-Valentine show with Freestyle on Feb. 15 at the Celebrity Club. She is also currently finishing her album under the Premium Records label of Star Records, which is scheduled for release soon. After this, she will fly off to Japan for a series of shows.

Calvin Millado will go to Singapore for the staging of the hit musical "Rent." He will also be recording an album under Viva Records.

Ariel Rivera will be promoting his latest album under BMG Records titled "Ariel Rivera Greatest Hits," a compilation of some of his most loved hits. He will be at the SM Centerpoint on Feb. 17. He is also regularly seen in "ASAP" on Sundays and "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" on weekdays over ABS-CBN.

Ara Mina is currently recording her new album under Star Records and is regularly seen on TV with her two regular shows, "Bubble Gang" on Fridays and "Kiss Muna" on Saturdays, both aired on GMA-7.

Ima Castro is still tied up with "Miss Saigon," where she gets to portray the plum role of Vietnamese bargirl Kim at certain performances. "Miss Saigon" will have its run at the CCP Main Theater until March of this year. She is also scheduled to do "Miss Saigon" in Hong Kong and Singapore.

Gladys and the Boxers with K continue to liven the entertainment scene with their nightly gigs in the following venues: Tuesday at Soundstage Cainta; Wednesdays at Chatterbox Galleria; Thursdays at Joe Kher in Yale, Cubao; Fridays at Lite and Live and Saturdays at Chatterbox West Avenue. Gladys Guevarra still hosts "Eat Bulaga" and is also regularly seen in "Beh Bote Nga!" both on GMA-7.

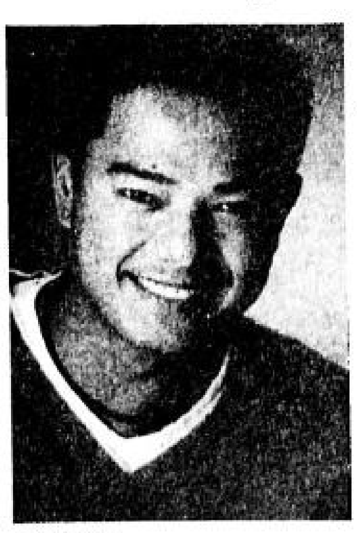
Plinky Recto still makes your Saturdays official mommy days with "Mommy Academy," the only school-for-moms on air, every Saturday morning from 11 to 11:30 on ABC-5. She is likewise busy doing corporate shows.

After the successful release of their debut single, "Oblivious," exciting musical group Kaya will be busy promoting their second single, "I Know," culled from their self-titled debut album under BMG Records Pilipinas.

Dominic Ochoa, Cynthia Patag, Shan-nen Torres and Vernie Varga are all busy with corporate shows.

Other artists in Backroom's stable of talents are Manilyn Reynes, Nikki Valdez, JM Rodriguez and Jeff Arcilla.

For inquiries and bookings, you can call Backroom Inc. at 435-1108, 435-1120, 435-3808, 435-1098, or fax them at 928-0717.



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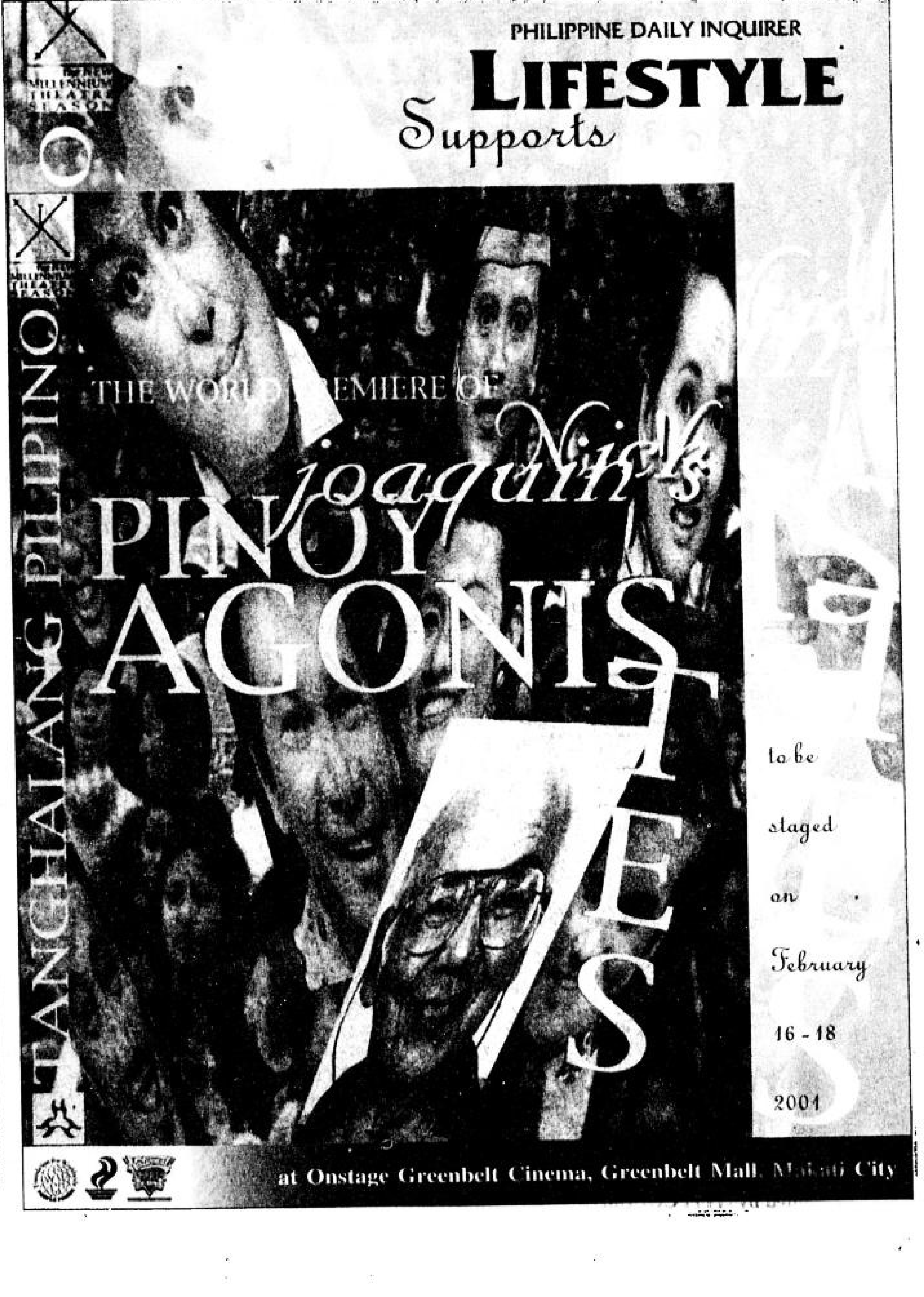
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

Gov't defers $400-M bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

A PLANNED $400-million bond float and a roadshow by the new economic team have been postponed to the second half of the year as the Macapagal administration still lacked the achievements that would impress foreign financial markets.

The roadshow was slated within the first quarter but the absence of a clear fiscal direction and headway in reforms prompted the Department of Finance to defer it.

Outgoing Finance Undersecretary Joel Bañares said the roadshow and the borrowing would likely take place in June or July. "We had to defer it," he said.

By the second half, the country's credit rating outlook would have been upgraded from negative to stable, reforms such as the power reform bill would have been passed, and monthly deficit targets would have been met.

"We have to work on our credit rating and when we go to the market, we must show progress in reforms like the power bill as well as show a good performance in meeting the deficit target," Bañares pointed out.

Foreign banks Chase Manhattan, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley have offered to conduct a roadshow and bond offering for the national government.

Bañares said the government would "exhaust domestic sources" of funds in the first semester to take advantage of declining interest rates. He said the national treasury agreed with this plan.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the local market could accommodate the planned P100 billion in domestic borrowing of the government without pushing interest rates up.

The outgoing finance official said it would be a bad timing to go out to the foreign market in the first half of the year as the government has yet to firm up its budget deficit target for 2001.

"The numbers are not firm yet. We are not sure if its P145 billion or P225 billion or somewhere in between," Bañares said. Last year, the deficit soared to P136.1 billion from a target of P62.5 billion.

The absence of the key economic figures was also the reason why the new administration had asked Standard & Poor's to postpone to March its scheduled visit this month.

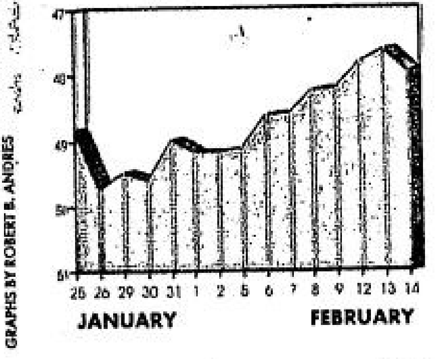
Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service both downgraded their outlook for the Philippine economy to negative from stable after the "Juetengate" scandal erupted in early October.

Another credit rating firm, IBCA Fitch, had placed the Philippines on a negative watch early this year during the height of the political crisis of the Estrada administration.

"We have to get ourselves out of the negative outlook," said Bañares, who explained that Fitch's negative watch meant it was already contemplating a ratings downgrade.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

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As of 5 p.m.,
Feb. 14, 2001

¥116.68 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 116.68 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 14, 2001

GOLD:$260.50/261.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 14, 2001

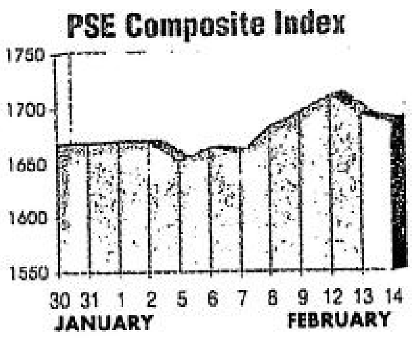
STOCK MARKET

Stocks end lower

STOCKS ended slightly weaker yesterday in dull trading as some investors continued to take profits amidst a dearth of fresh positive news to spur the market, traders said.

"Not only love is in the air," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo, "profit taking is as well."

Three consecutive days of gains were snapped on Tuesday when the market dipped and Del Castillo said yesterday's downturn was a continuation of this trend though he expected the selling to have mostly petered out now. *Reuters*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

'UNPRECEDENTED' PROBLEMS

Bank of Commerce suspends merger with Urban Bank

BANK of Commerce yesterday said that it was deferring its merger and rehabilitation plans with the closed Urban Bank until all of Urban Bank's legal issues have been finally resolved.

BOC president Raul de Mesa said in a statement that the rational thing for BOC to do was to exercise extreme prudence in the pursuit of the plan as various issues, all begging for answers, have surfaced recently concerning the closed bank.

He said that unless the issues were settled, these would naturally affect the viability of the merger.

In its previous statement, BOC had expressed apprehension over the merger but qualified that it was its intention to pursue the rehabilitation of the closed bank.

However, De Mesa said that an assessment of recent developments made it necessary for BOC to reconsider pursuing this direction.

"We want the viability of the merger to be assured and anything less than this will naturally require us to re-study our options," he said.

De Mesa said: "We cannot pursue it in earnest if these issues are left unresolved."

He added that there had been a lot of worrying issues thrown along the way that made the rehabilitation plan far more complex than what was anticipated.

He said that one must admit that no banking merger has had problems that were of this magnitude and degree. "This is unprecedented," he added.

The paramount question in our minds is "is it still viable for BOC to merge with Urban Bank considering the controversy the closed bank has generated recently," he said.

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

ALL right, I stand corrected. This new administration of Gloriaetta has an economic program. It is, in fact, a rather comprehensive program. Surprise! It's the very same program of the good-for-nothing previous administration.

No kidding, the economic program of the administration of Gloriaetta is the same program as the administration of the man named Band ... Wrist Band. And yet this was the stupid administration ousted by the cute administration for the sake of the economy.

So forgive me, I was wrong, this administration indeed has a program. It may be a Nescafé program. You know, "instant!" It's nonetheless a program. At least today we already have something. When Gloriaetta took over, we only had some core beliefs.

If the Wrist Band program, covering his aborted term from 1999 to 2004, now becomes Gloriaetta's "updated" program, meaning, she alters certain items here and there, what was that BS about saving the economy all about—just BS or what?

* * *

IN her latest formal press conference, in which she also unabashedly indicated publicly that she and First Husband Miguel "Just Call Me Mike" Arroyo are still enjoying a wonderful se ... *este*, lovelife, Gloriaetta again referred to the economy as "tattered."

Well, it was the battle cry of her "group" to get into power, whoever were behind her mysteriously. The economy needed somebody like them to recover from 1) lack of direction and 2) mismanagement, all thanks to the Wrist Band administration.

As a matter of fact, to prove how "tattered" the economy was when the cute administration took over after they sent Wrist Band home for good, they offered to retain Wrist Band's national treasurer Liling Briones, who was a UP professor herself.

She could remain in her position on only one condition. And that was, she had to declare that the government, under Wrist Band, became bankrupt. Unfortunately, the government had some P104 billion in ready cash. Thus, Briones was also sent home.

* * *

AMONG members of the new economic team, who by the way are all competent and honest, it is recognized that nothing big was really wrong in the Wrist Band administration except Wrist Band himself. In a word, it was all about "leadership."

Do we have a promise then that, under Gloriaetta, the economy is getting the leadership it missed under Wrist Band? And what kind? So far, we only got a promise of "leadership by example." We don't even know yet whether it's good or it's bad example.

Anyway, I am thinking along the line of hands-on economic leadership for which former US President Bill Clinton is credited. And hey, *Pareng* Bill was Gloriaetta's classmate in Georgetown University. How about a class reunion or something?

So far, it's not evident we have such a hands-on economic leadership from somebody who is a "trained" economist. Well, *Pareng* Bill wasn't a "trained" economist. We're not even sure she's really the one directly following orders from somebody else.

* * *

AND it's not even because somebody else's "boys" now hold important positions in the government. Again! Most of us do not give a hoot about militarization. It was only expected. What installed this administration into power, if it was not a military coup?

In case you didn't notice, by the way, how come the state-owned gaming monopoly Pagcor did not go to the former military man who looked like Renato Valencia, the former head of Social Security System?

Before the Gloriaetta administration could form its Cabinet, not even a single shelf, Valencia was already named to the dealer de tutti dealers of Pagcor. To think, Tita Cory's only request of Gloriaetta involved Pagcor chair Alice Reyes. Please keep her.

But what's terribly wrong in having your "boy" to show dealership by example in a company which rakes in some P13 billion a year, thus becoming the milking cow of almost everybody in public office, plus friends, families and "loved ones?"

* * *

NOBODY can say why Valencia rejected the job. Or, in the first place, did he really reject it? Everybody can only say that the new head of Pagcor, a certain Efraim Genuino, who is both president and chair, was handpicked by Just Call Me Mike.

Genuino's credentials boast of a long association with Just Call Me Mike in the Rotary Club of Manila. Not only that, Genuino had no background in gaming whatsoever, or for that matter, in running a huge complicated business like Pagcor's.

But Genuino is involved in high-technology known as computer college. Well, in this country, a single room affair can be called a "college." Genuino's is called Trace Computer, which is located in the very heart of IT country in Guadalupe, Makati.

Immediately, word goes around about some fights over contracts involving Pagcor. Last year, the firm grossed almost P13 billion, and it spent some P5 billion. This is a lot of money worth fighting for and putting your "boy" there right away, please.

* * *

BUT back to the economy, I heard that somebody is working overtime to put together the much-needed "alteration" to the economic program of Wrist Band. It's none other than Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas, also head of the Neda.

Like his predecessor, and his predecessor's predecessor, together with the predecessor of his predecessor's predecessor, Canlas also taught Economics at UP. I don't know, probably it's a system for easy transition or something.

Recently, Canlas gave a briefing to the Makati Business Club, and then he had to rush to another venue to give the same briefing to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Why the two groups couldn't be together, is not for me to say.

The briefing, anyway, was all the product of Canlas, and I doubt if it had any input from Gloriaetta, who is a "trained" economist. I don't know if that is the kind of leadership for which we were asked to depose a legitimate government.

Brokerage firm to close shop

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE BATTERED stock market has claimed its latest casualty as the Tong Yang group of Korea is set to shut down its Philippine subsidiary, Orion Squire Capital Inc.

The looming closure of one of the country's biggest brokerage houses has further raised concern among other brokers on the merits of a plan by the Securities and Exchange Commission to raise the minimum paid-up capitalization requirement to P50 million.

Well-placed sources yesterday said that Orion Squire, one of the top 30 brokerage houses in the country, would soon stop its local operations. They said the Korean head office has already started its audit on the subsidiary.

Insiders also said the brokerage house has started moving client accounts to other firms. However, the company has yet to formally inform the Philippine Stock Exchange of these developments.

Orion Squire will be the third foreign brokerage house to shut down local operations after the implementation of the Securities Regulation Code in August last year. The two other casualties were the local units of Sun Hung Kai Securities of Hong Kong and OCBC Securities of Singapore.

Orion Squire is a subsidiary of Tong Yang Securities Co. Ltd. of Korea. In 1999, the company ranked 25th among 185 brokers in the PSE, with a market share of 1.1 percent valued at P17 billion. It has a capital stock of P300 million.

Apart from Tong Yang Securities, which owns 60 percent of the company, other shareholders of Orion Squire are George Go of Equitable Bank, Jerry Angping of Angping Securities, and Gabriel Tong of Pag-asa Steel.

Tong Yang Securities of Korea, the majority shareholder, is a member of the Tong Yang group, a prominent conglomerate in Korea. Tong Yang Securities is one of Korea's leading stockbrokerage firms with a capitalization of $388 million.

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DISCLOSURES

THE SUPREME Court denied the petition for review and certiorari filed by the Sangguniang Bayan ng Limay, Bataan, against **Petron Corp.** This affirmed the nullity of Municipal Ordinance No. 90 of Limay that would have imposed the local government unit's share of its gross oil-based revenues from 1992 to 1994.

* * *

LEPANTO Consolidated Mining Co. received a writ of preliminary injunction from the Makati RTC enjoining **WMC Resources International Pty Ltd.** and the **Tampakan Companies** from implementing their sale agreements covering the same shares subject of the sale and purchase agreement between Lepanto and WMC dated July 12, 2000.

* * *

NEGROS Navigation said it has no knowledge of any information relating to the unusual movement in the trading of its share price from P0.16 to P0.24.

* * *

CEBU Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 16, 10 a.m., at the Grand Ballroom, Cebu City Marriott Hotel.

* * *

BOGO-MEDELLIN Milling Co. Inc. informed about the demise of director John Payne. His replacement will be elected during its annual stockholders' meeting on April 3.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Resins Industries Inc. accepted the offer of **Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.**'s offer to transfer its remaining marketing and sales operations in the PVC business to PRII for a total consideration of P120 million.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 2, 2 p.m., at the Rigodon Ballroom, The Peninsula Manila, Makati.

* * *

PURE FOODS Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 16, 3 p.m., at the Pure Foods Corp. Board Room, 23rd floor, JMT Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. *Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, February 14, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.20	7.2	7.2	7.2	7,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	121.0	121	121	121	200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70.00	70	70	70	123,200
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	55.00	55	55	55	11,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	232.0	234	232	233	9,650
Philippine National Bank	36.00	36	35.5	35.5	102,800
Security Bank Corp.	25.00	26.5	25	26.5	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.7	1.7	441,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1265	1265	1260	1265	1,770
PCI Leasing& Fin. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.24	289,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1100	1060	1070	18,130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	50.00	50	50	50	10,900
Diversified Fin. Network	10.00	11	10	11	6,000.
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	.7400	.77	.74	.74	1,000,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	.0575	.0575	.055	.0575	2,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	.5000	.5	.5	.5	190,000
Piltel	.8900	.89	.88	.88	40,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	.4100	.41	.41	.41	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	875.0	875	860	865	16,840
Ivantage Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	142,000
Philweb.com Inc.	.0800	.0825	.08	.0825	121,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	55.50	55.5	55	55.5	11,700
Manila Electric Co. "B"	63.00	63	61	62.5	1,721,000
Petron Corp.	1.96	2.04	1.96	2.04	7,233,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	.9400	.98	.94	.98	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.38	1.48	1.38	1.44	13,529,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	140,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.2100	.215	.2	.21	1,200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	.2500	.25	.25	.25	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	.5400	.54	.54	.54	610,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	.8500	.85	.85	.85	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	.8700	.87	.86	.87	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.10	2.1	2.1	2.1	7,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.80	2.8	2.8	2.8	59,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	436,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	38.50	39	38.5	39	158,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
RFM Corp.	1.40	1.5	1.34	1.36	15,977,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	50.50	51	50.5	51	39,500
San Miguel Corp. "B"	62.00	63	61	63	227,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.60	5.7	5.6	5.6	274,000
Vitarich Corp.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg "A"	.5600	.56	.56	.56	100,000
Ayala Corp.	8.30	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,089,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	62,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	2,500
Ajo.net Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.08	145,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	30,000
APC Group Inc.	.2300	.24	.23	.24	10,910,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0060	.006	.006	.006	50,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.50	2.5	2.5	2.5	165,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.00	2	2	2	17,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	.2800	.28	.27	.27	1,410,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.30	3.3	3.15	3.15	2,749,000
Crown Equities Inc.	.2700	.27	.27	.27	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	.5600	.56	.55	.56	190,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.34	1.4	1.32	1.38	2,431,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.00	26	24.5	25	474,700
Global Equities Inc.	.3800	.38	.37	.37	200,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	.3100	.31	.31	.31	50,000
Ionics Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.5	250,200
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.70	2.85	2.7	2.85	2,028,000
Megaworld Corp.	.9600	.96	.95	.96	5,340,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.6600	.67	.66	.66	1,520,000
Solid Group Inc.	.7900	.8	.79	.8	1,780,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	.1200	.25	.12	.25	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	.4100	.42	.41	.42	1,930,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	.4500	.46	.45	.46	20,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	.3800	.38	.36	.36	220,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	.6800	.68	.68	.68	20,000
Interphil Labs Inc. "A"	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	10,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	7.00	7.8	7	7.8	104,000
Music Corp.	3.30	3.35	3.3	3.3	720,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	.8000	.85	.78	.85	2,760,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.1500	.15	.15	.15	1,800,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.9700	.97	.97	.97	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	11.75	11.75	11.25	11.75	157,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	.6500	.65	.65	.65	2,050,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.8500	.85	.78	.79	17,990,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.7300	.73	.39	.72	3,140,000
Manila Jockey Club	15.00	17	15	17	21,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	50.50	50.5	50.5	50.5	600,200
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	530.0	530	530	530	50
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.40	3.5	[illegible]	3.5	31,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	.0036	.0036	[illegible]	.0034	322,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	11.00	11	11	11	22,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.50	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
Waterfront Phils-warrant	.0725	.0725	.0725	.0725	1,300,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.70	6.8	6.7	6.8	4,607,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	.4000	.41	.4	.41	200,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.3600	.36	.35	.35	2,730,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.5000	.5	.5	.5	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.4500	.46	.43	.46	3,430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.75	2.85	2.7	2.8	7,038,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	.2150	.215	.215	.215	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.4400	.44	.44	.44	100,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	.4200	.42	.42	.42	50,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	.1450	.145	.14	.14	580,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.00	7.1	6.9	7.1	3,847,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	.1250	.125	.125	.125	230,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	1.20	1.8	1.1	1.1	89,389,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	.0070	.007	.007	.007	2,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	20,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "A"	.0190	.019	.019	.019	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines "B"	.0200	.02	.02	.02	200,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. "A"	.2100	.21	.21	.21	160,000
Manila Mining Corp. "A"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	22,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. "B"	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	25,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0048	.0048	.0048	.0048	28,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0290	.029	.029	.029	700,000
Interport Res.	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "A"	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. "B"	.0055	.0055	.0055	.0055	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. "B"	.2500	.25	.2	.2	310,000
Pacifica	.0180	.019	.018	.019	7,400,000
South China Resources Inc.	.3200	.32	.32	.32	60,000
Vulcan Ind'l	.2600	.26	.25	.25	1,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,006,250	37,918,760.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	604,383,290	341,004,500.00
PRO	112,421,000	241,824,150.00
Mining	99,360,000	639,500.00
OIL	29,970,000	742,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	847,140,540	622,129,710.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	617.32	DOWN 0.76
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,308.58	DOWN10.86
PRO	650.40	UP3.67
Mining	1,333.43	UP15.83
OIL	1.94	DOWN 0.04
All Shares Index	803.78	DOWN16.06
Composite	1,687.74	DOWN 4.53

NO. OF ADVANCES: 32; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 46; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 123; NO. OF TRADES: 3,517

CURRENCIES

Feb. 14, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.085894	1.000000	47.6740
Japan	Yen	0.009307	0.008571	0.4086
United Kingdom	Pound	1.577153	1.452400	69.2417
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139222	0.128210	6.1123
Switzerland	Franc	0.650938	0.599449	28.5781
Canada	Dollar	0.713841	0.657376	31.3397
Singapore	Dollar	0.622645	0.573394	27.3360
Australia	Dollar	0.579113	0.533305	25.4248
Bahrain	Dinar	2.880509	2.652661	126.4630
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.289595	0.266688	12.7141
Brunei	Dollar	0.620405	0.571331	27.2376
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000105	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025577	0.023554	1.1229
UAE	Dirham	0.295682	0.272294	12.9813
Korea	Won	0.000868	0.000799	0.0381
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.920900	43.9030
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.470849	22.4473
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140390	6.6930
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.417886	19.9223
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.066924	3.1905
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022829	1.0883
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000476	0.0227
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154884	7.3839
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004593	0.2190
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005535	0.2639
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022829	1.0883
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.169302	55.7453

Wal-Mart investing in RP; first store to open in June

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AMERICAN retail giant Wal-Mart has finally decided to invest in the Philippines this year although it has yet to make up its mind on whether to go solo or enter the market with a partner.

This was revealed by Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who, along with President Macapagal-Arroyo, met with visiting Wal-Mart officials Monday.

Roxas said the renewed confidence in the country, arising from the recent change in the administration, has prompted Wal-Mart to finally firm up its entry into the country after years of indecision.

Roxas told reporters that Wal-Mart was keen on breaking ground for its first retail store in the Philippines by the middle of this year. "They're still negotiating with a potential local partner but they are prepared to come in on their own," Roxas said.

This will be Wal-Mart's first venture in Asia and it will be the third major foreign retailer (after the President group of Taiwan and PriceSmart) to come into the country since the retail trade industry was liberalized last year.

Wal-Mart is currently taking a second look at ailing Uniwide after French retailer Casino decided to abandon its previous plan to infuse P4 billion into the discount retail chain last year. Wal-Mart was close to signing a deal with the Gow family for control of Uniwide in 1998 but differences on prices and further disclosure of financial troubles in Uniwide prompted Wal-Mart to back off at the last minute.

Roxas said the government was hopeful it could convince Wal-Mart to look at other opportunities beyond retailing. Wal-Mart is being prodded to establish its regional headquarters here, engage in wholesale and distribution, and take part in agriculture processing ventures.

Wal-Mart has previously expressed interest in buying Philippine-made merchandise for sale in its American stores. Wal-Mart currently buys $60 million worth of merchandise from the Philippines.

Wal-Mart is also looking into relocating its backroom operations in the country and establishing a regional headquarters here in view of the country's large pool of English-speaking and skilled workers.

Earlier, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. said it had finalized a deal with US-based retailer Pricesmart Inc. that would pave the way for the opening of its sixth Asian warehouse inside the Fort Bonifacio complex by April this year.

Metro Pacific Corp. president Ricardo Pascua said Pricesmart had started the construction of its first store in the former military base, which is now being developed into a global city by FBDC, the joint venture between MPC-led consortium Bonifacio Land Corp. and state-controlled Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

"I think they're targeting to open by April," Pascua said.

Pricesmart, based in San Diego, California, specializes in membership shopping warehouses and is among the foreign groups keen on the Philippines following the recent liberalization of the local retail sector.

The Philippines will be the third country in Asia where Pricesmart will set foot but the very first where it will directly own and control the store. It currently has five Asian warehouses in operation, four in China and one in Saipan, licensed by the company but owned and operated by local businessmen.

As foreigners are barred by the Constitution from owning land in the Philippines, Pricesmart has leased land from FBDC. Foreigners are allowed to lease land up to 50 years, with the contract renewable for another 25 years.

Manila is among the six locations planned by Pricesmart for opening by the fall of 2001 or the third quarter. Pricesmart, whose shares are listed on the Nasdaq, also announced that it plans to open one store in Guatemala and four in the Caribbean.

Bayantel readies debt relief plan

By Elena R. Torrijos

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., the telecom arm of the Lopez family, will present to its creditors next month a plan to restructure $480 million worth of debts as the company's cash flows continue to worsen due to diminishing subscriber base.

Meanwhile, a "global foreign player" in the telecommunications industry is emerging as a possible white knight that would infuse fresh capital for a 20- to 40-percent stake in the company. The potential foreign investor is currently conducting a two-week due diligence on Bayantel and sister firm SkyCable.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Benpres chief financial officer Angel Ong said Bank of America has been tapped as the financial adviser for the restructuring plan. The plan will include a 'contingent sponsor support' from Benpres Holdings Corp., the Lopezes' flagship holding company that owns 47 percent of Bayantel.

Ong said the Bayantel restructuring plan would likely be patterned "loosely" after that of Pilipino Telephone Corp., a subsidiary of telephone giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. that had defaulted on P34.9 billion worth of debts. PLDT provided a commitment to support Piltel to the tune of $150 million in line with a master restructuring agreement that was recently completed with various creditor groups.

"Piltel's debts amounted to $900 million while Bayantel's is only half of that. Also, Bayantel's cash flows look better than Piltel so sponsor support might be lower than Piltel in relative terms," Ong pointed out.

Bayantel last Jan. 16 missed a coupon payment for $200 million worth of bonds maturing in 2006 although it continues to pay interests on loans from commercial banks.

Under preliminary plans to restructure its $480 million worth of debts, Bayantel will pay even the accrued interests and will try to stretch the restructuring to as long as possible.

Bayantel's creditor banks include Equitable PCI Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Bank of the Philippine Islands, United Coconut Planters Bank, Deutsche Bank, Standard and Chartered Bank and the Export Development Corp. of Canada.

Benpres has been trying to attract a strategic investor for its ailing telecom unit. It had, however, stopped providing financial support to Bayantel.

"We cannot keep on advancing funds. We've been putting money into Bayantel in the form of capital since 1994. The total equity infused (by Benpres and partners) into the company already amounted to some $400 million," Ong explained.

Last year, Bear Stearns and Credit Suisse First Boston were commissioned to get a strategic partner for Bayantel but the country's political crisis last year up to early this year scared off potential investors. The Benpres group was hoping to raise $150 million in fresh capital from the entry of a foreign investor who would be an "operating partner" for the telecom company.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. has declared a dividend of $0.12 per share, in Canadian currency, on the outstanding common shares of the Corporation payable on March 31, 2001 to shareholders of record as at the close of business on February 26, 2001.

By order of the Board of Directors
James E. Henkel
Vice President & Corporate Secretary

February 14, 2001
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Sun Life Financial

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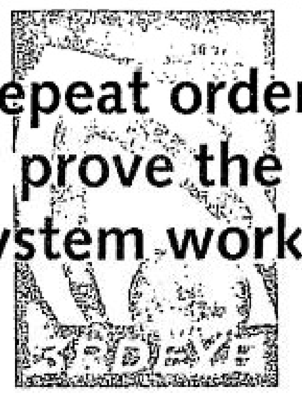
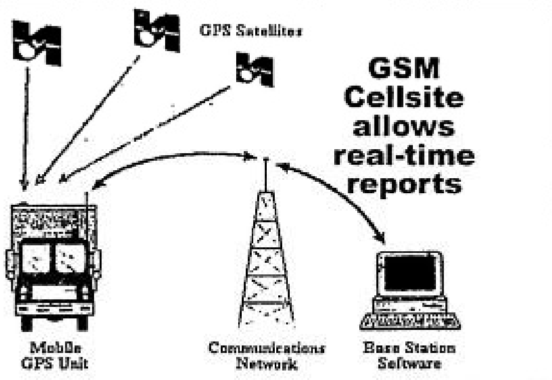


Repeat orders prove the system works.



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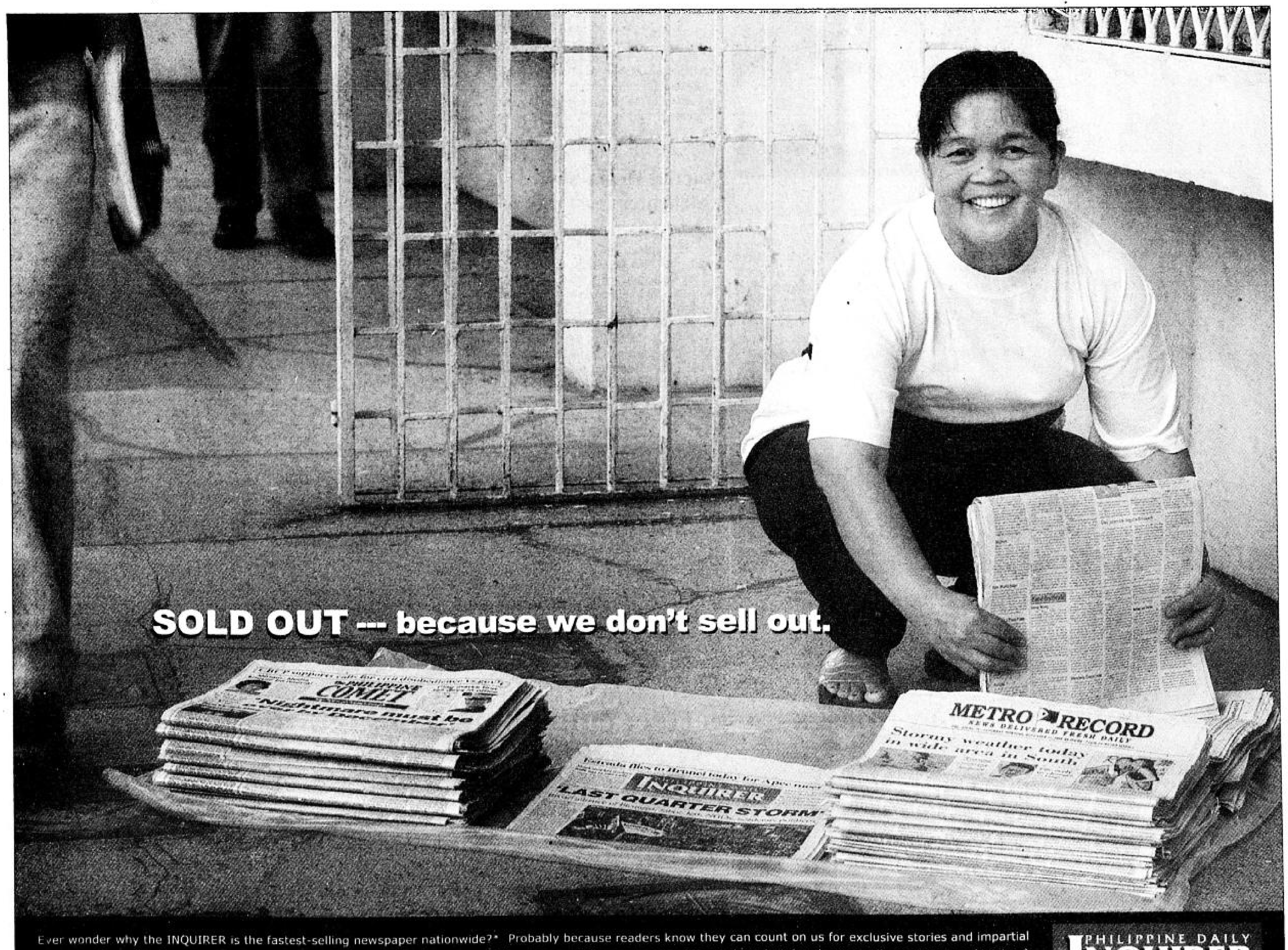

Ever wonder why the INQUIRER is the fastest-selling newspaper nationwide?* Probably because readers know they can count on us for exclusive stories and impartial coverage that tell it like it is. Which may be why the INQUIRER also came out No. 1 in credibility and readership numbers (total and across *all* age groups and sectors) nationwide, according to the Asia Research Organization survey (Sept. 30, 2000) and Pulse Asia (Dec. 1999). **To all our advertisers, supporters and loyal readers, thank you for helping us prove every day that independence is smart business.**

*According to the Newspaper, Magazine & Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines, Sept. 2000.

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People, Events & Products

Rez Gopez-Sindac, Editor

Convergence for planning, budgeting and analysis in the digital economy

OVER 300 corporate planners will converge to tackle planning, budgeting and analysis in the digital economy through a seminar and workshop from Feb. 21-22.

Admittedly, using Spreadsheet (Microsoft® Excel) is the most popular tool used to prepare budgets.

Among the challenges that corporate planners would like to overcome include re-keying data into the spreadsheets, linking spreadsheets together and dynamically integrating accounting system and other sources of budgeting data.

Ramon Tejada, Kodak Phils finance and admin manager and Rico Cruz, financial planning manager of Del Monte Phils., agreed that there's a need to improve the budgeting revision and disseminating processes.

The "Planning, Budgeting and Analysis in the Digital Economy" seminar slated on Feb. 21 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Quezon Ballroom, Makati, Shangri-La Hotel, will cover a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of Spreadsheets and Relational Database as planning, budgeting and forecasting tool. The highlights will focus on building a real-time, collaborative, multidimensional budgeting system that dynamically interacts with accounting system and other relational database.

Selected participants of the workshop on Feb. 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. will have a hands-on experience in creating an enterprise wide budget that can be viewed, reported on and analyzed as quickly as numbers can be entered.

The seminar-workshop is a fully subsidized project of IM2 Corporation.

IM2 Corporation is committed to deliver high value on investment through management and manufacturing solutions. For more information, call 723-4840 or visit www.im2.com.ph

COURTESY CALL

Brent School Baguio's first student exchange representatives to Goulburn Valley Grammar School (GVGS) in Shepparton, Australia recently paid a special courtesy visit to Mayor Mauricio Domogan (second from right). The students (from left) Ria Nevada, Dionne Soriano and Luis Padilla received from the Mayor a letter they will present to Chris Hazelman, the mayor of Shepparton City. About 2 hours away by land and 180 kilometers north of Melbourne, Shepparton is the sister city of Baguio, hence this exchange is particularly relevant not only to the members of the Brent School community but also the rest of the city. The three students, who were selected by a Brent faculty based on their applications and interviews, will have the special task of bringing to Shepparton the goodwill of its sister city in the Philippines. At right is Brendan Watson, faculty coordinator of the Student Exchange Program.

ARISTON SHOWROOM FORMALLY OPENS

Fabriano national sales manager Joey Manuel (center), leads the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon which formally opened the Ariston Showroom in Anson Arcade. Welcoming Manuel are Ariston Showroom officer Loui Dayaon (second from left) and product specialist Jo Carlos (extreme left). Also in photo are are Fabriano marketing manager Norman Reynoso and HRD head Vangie Belches. The Ariston showroom can be reached through 887-0075.

BITS Clips

Metro JC Senate general meeting

VALENCIA

THE METRO Manila JC Senate is inviting all JCI Senators to attend the general membership meeting on Feb. 21, 11:45 a.m. at the Mimosa Room, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. The Metro Manila JC Senate officers for the year 2001are JCI Sen. Sergio O. Valencia, president; JCI Sen. Jose A. Ragos, executive vice president; JCI Sen. Jose U. Sevilla, vice president for Metro North; JCI Sen. Felipe V. Briones, vice president for Metro East; JCI Sen. Roberto M. Laygo, vice president for Metro South; JCI Sen. Gino A. Baltao, treasurer; JCI Sen. Mylene M. Dayrit, secretary general. This year's advisers are JCI Senators Ernesto N. Chua CK, Eduardo J. de Guzman and Louie T. Pabalan, Jr. For reservations, call the Philippine JC Senate at 373-5819 and 374-4390.

CAINTA JAYCEES NEW OFFICERS

The Junior Chambers of Cainta Inc. (Cainta Jaycees Inc.) recently inducted its new set of officers at The Manila Galleria Suites. Standing (from left): Akira Lopez, Jasper Espares, Joseph Lajom, Rjay Magno, Leeca Austria, Edmond Pascual, Rey Domantay, Rhoan Tudela and Harold Santos. Seated: Ruben Y. Bulalong, president and Maricel Tamayo.

KRAFT ENDORSEMENT ACCORD

Kraft Foods Philippins Inc. appointed culinary expert Sylvia Reynoso-Gala, celebrity housewife Lotlot de Leon and family as brand endorsers in the new advertising campaign of Kraft Real Mayonnaise, the best tasting extra creamy mayonnaise. Shown at the ceremonial contract signing are (seated, from left) JWT managing director Mark Webster, Gala; Sylvia Reynoso-Gala; Bienvenido Bautista, Kraft Foods president and area director for Southeast Asia; Lotlot de Leon; Ramon Christopher; and Ramiro Cruz, KPFI president and general manager. Witnessing the signing are JWT group director Ana Neri, talent managers Albert Baligod and Cornelia Lee, KFPI marketing director Catherine Sta. Maria, KFPI product manager Ramon Medina, KFPI group product manager Mayette Siasoco and JWT account executive Tricia Sardua.

ICA to stage 'Joseph the Dreamer'

FIFTY-FIVE students of the International Christian Academy (ICA)-in Parañaque City star in the musicale "Joseph the Dreamer" to be held Feb. 23 at the ACCM (Word for the World) Sanctuary on Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. A joint project of ICA's repertory league Replica and the Association of Parents and Teachers of ICA (APTICA), the musicale tells how a man's seeming defeat in the beginning becomes a miraculous triumph in the end, with God as the writer and director. Shows are at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets, priced at P50, are available at the gate.

PRESS CONFERENCE
SHANG
MAKATI

LAUNCH OF RELIV PHILIPPINES

At a press conference held in Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Reliv Philippines launched an array of cutting-edge nutritional supplements formulated for general and specific health needs. The event also showcased income earning opportunities for home-based, part-time and full-time independent distributors through the distribution of Reliv products. Answering queries from the media are (from left) Reliv Phil. marketing director Maridol Cumpio, Reliv VP for sales development Fred Cameron, Reliv distributors lawyer Jolly Gomez and Dr. George Cheng.

Golden Jubilee 2000

BOLINAO SILVER AWARDEES

Bolinao Security & Investigation Service recently awarded its employees who gave unequalled dedication to the company for more than 25 years. The awardees are (from right) Eligio Paat, Ronieto Santillan, Alejandro Fernandez, Federico Catuday, Lucena Caasi, Alejo Caasi and Umberto Oquendo. Awarding the employees are Bolinao executives (from left) Urbano Caasi Jr., Urbano Caasi III, Estrella Caasi, and P/C Supt. Ricardo De Leon. The awarding took place during the Bolinao's Golden Jubilee 50th founding anniversary.

Sacred Heart Shrine celebrates feast day

THE NATIONAL Shrine of the Sacred Heart on Dao St., Antonio Village, Makati, will celebrates its Silver Jubilee as a shrine on Feb. 14, 2001 with a book launching and a thanksgiving Mass for all its benefactors and friends to be celebrated by Rev. Crisostomo A. Yalung, D.D., auxiliary bishop of Manila and rector of the Shrine. The feast day Mass will be celebrated by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin at 6 p.m. to be followed by a concert at the Shrine featuring the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra. Everyone is invited to the celebration. For more information, call 895-6331.

HR Placement holds seminar on recruitment

HR Placement and Training Services Inc., a CSC accredited training institution, will hold a seminar on recruitment on Feb. 16 at the AIM Conference Center (formerly ACCEED) at Benitez corner Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati. Titled "Effective Recruiting Strategies: Finding the Right Match," the course aims to teach companies practical and cost effective strategies in the hiring and selection of applicants and finding the right people for the job. Registration fee is P3,000 per person, inclusive of seminar materials, lunch/snacks and certificate of attendance. For inquiries, call 844-4240 or 843-4223 or email hrplacement@hotmail.com.

BATTLE OF THE CHAMPIONS

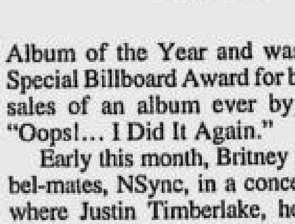
Oriental and Motolite Corporation (OMC), the country's leading battery manufacturer, brought world billiard champions Efren "Bata" Reyes and Dyango Bustamante to Tarlac recently to compete in Motolite's "Battle of the Billiard Champions." Efren "Bata" Reyes, known as The Magician in the world of billiards, beat Dyango Bustamante, 16-15 in a game of 9-ball. Shown are Efren "Bata" Reyes and Dyango Bustamante (third and fourth from left, respectively) with Robert B. Reyes, OMC AVP for marketing (right) and the rest of the marketing team of Oriental and Motolite Corp.

Skechers found in Britney Spears the perfect embodiment of sophisticated energy

POPULAR teen idol Britney Spears now belongs to the Skechers family. Skechers USA recently launched Skechers Sport Energy Line, designed and conceptualized for the high-energy teen lifestyle. In line with the launch, Skechers USA forged a partnership with Britney Spears in promoting the new line. Britney personifies the young and hip image of the new line of footwear.

The announcement coincided with the launching last month of Britney Spears' new single titled "Stronger," from her second album "Oops!... I Did It Again" released by Universal Records. Its video was filmed in Los Angeles before Britney flew to the United Kingdom for her European concert tour. The commercial single release included a couple of new dance mixes unlike any other Britney Spears mixes heard before.

2378 NVHP



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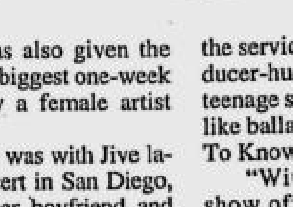

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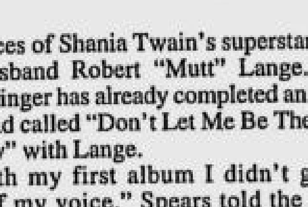

Britney's fans have multiple reasons to rejoice this year. She was honored with two Billboard Awards in a live ceremony held in Las Vegas on Dec. 5 this year. She won the Album of the Year and was also given the Special Billboard Award for biggest one-week sales of an album ever by a female artist "Oops!... I Did It Again."

Early this month, Britney was with Jive label-mates, NSync, in a concert in San Diego, where Justin Timberlake, her boyfriend and NSync member, brought her out on stage and the whole audience sang happy birthday for her.

For her forthcoming third album due to come out in early 2001, Britney has enlisted the services of Shania Twain's superstar producer-husband Robert "Mutt" Lange. The teenage singer has already completed an epic-like ballad called "Don't Let Me Be The Last To Know" with Lange.

"With my first album I didn't get to show off my voice," Spears told the trade magazine Hollywood Reporter. "The songs were great, but they weren't very challenging. This song, however, is incredible. It's going to surprise people in the best possible way," concluded Spears.

According to Robert Greenberg, Skechers USA CEO and board chair, "We've been watching and supporting Britney's career since her first album was released. As we continue to build our brand internationally, we think that Britney will be key to enhancing Skecher's identity across Europe, Asia and the world."

Known for comfortable outsoles and edgy designs, Skechers footwear can be found in top retailers not only in the Philippines but also in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world.

In parallel with the string of significant milestones in the career of Britney Spears this year, Skechers USA president Michael Greenberg (the son of CEO Robert Greenberg) was named "Person of the Year" by the leading industry trade publication, Footwear News. In 1998, Skechers was also recognized by Footwear News as "Company of the Year."

Today, not only does Spears have the energy for gyrating and wiggling to teen-friendly dance beats, Britney will soon wax philosophical in print about mother-daughter bonding. That's right, the sugary pop princess is heading to the typewriter. She and her mom, Lynne Spears, are planning to co-write a Mother's Day parable to be published by May 2001. The gift book is expected to be all about mothers and daughters, and Mother Spears is expected to make her rounds to various publishers next week to pitch the idea.

Skechers USA officials said they found in Britney Spears a perfect match to a brand model that represents the very essence of its youth market, from urban and youthful to sporty, casual and sophisticated. How did an 18-year old girl from Kentwood, Louisiana become the youngest artist ever to strike gold with a #1 debut album and single? The answer is simple: Britney Spears came into the world energized! And that, in a word, summarizes the connection between Britney Spears and the Skechers Sport Energy line of new footwear from Skechers.

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SKINPEELING & BLEACHING WARTS PIMPLES HAIRLOSS SCARS BO-ES VD-STD Rx 15 Annapolis Greenhills Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC T8175071 MATRINCO BLDG. 2178 PTAMO MKT 9-2pm DR. GATAN

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

We Build Houses 4178012

HEALTH/FITNESS

• SLIMMIMG PROGRAM • 521-9683 / 498-0309

BE BEAUTY & SEXY 2443937

MASSAGE

ASK GEORGE M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME

7523149/09173989303 M/F

European Girl 09179824530

H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Male #16 Palanan 7320659

Massage 09194056183 Chery

MASSAGE (0919)433-3191 GEM

•NewMabuhay Msg4383570

Nice Guys Ltd 4376220;4218450

Visma Massage by the blind expert 913-8763

REFLEXOLOGY

D' Millenium Tel#9347633

REFLEX 09173443876 Daniel

REFLEX 0919-2395660 Jojo

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

ReflexRyan 09179760380

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LALUZ 5268216/5268270

MISCELLANEOUS

CAREGIVERS Gigi 948-5992

Credit Card Holder Loan Spot Cash Call 443-8305

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Affordable Maids 872-0265

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

Good/Nice Maids 9287096

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

MAIDS 9124701 • 9124706

Maids Driver 9270418 4536305

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

MAIDS
Available • 871-2370

PROV'L & CITY A/A MAIDS 8735271

Prov'l All Around Maids Driver H'Boy w/NBI 8735042 • 8712372

RELIABLE MAID YAYA 7418078

We have maids nurse mwife 4hmcare 4536305 9270418

We have maids oldsitters 4hmecare9270418 4536305

LIPAT BAHAY

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

9206784/4540520

CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•LBahay7251645/7441698•

LIPAT AGAD 5220956

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0818/716-9177

•LIPAT•731-6833

CARPET CLEANING

CARPET
Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

KALOOCAN

Caloocan 3045m² w/Hse & W'hse 6.5M • 928-3267

Caloocan 305m² Hse & Warehse 6.5M • 928-3267

MANILA

Comm'l nr Luneta & Roxas Blvd P520T Income P75M 2335m² Highly Comm'l Area nr Recto Avenida Sta Cruz P70M T3730597 Noll

MANDALUYONG

**5Sty Bldg Along EDSA-Mand LA889m² Comm'l 643-5313

PASAY

Antel Seaview Roxas 1BR / Studio • 928-3267

QUEZON CITY

Bohol Ave QC 200m² 3Sty Brand new 9M • 928-3267

Comm/Res H&L Horseshoe 515sqm Call 412-1652 Jen

Comm/Res Thse Sct Area 4BR P2.5M Call 412-1652

Cordillera SMH 700m² with 3Sty Bldg P21M 928-3267

E.Rodriguez QC 2115m² w/ 4Sty Bldg P80M 928-3267

Palanan Near Banawe QC 267m² 7.5M • 928-3267

Pitimini w/Hse 2sty 260m² 5.5M 928-3267 • 920-2001

SFDM, QC 280m²-714m² Res/Whse • 928-3267

D. Tuazon nr Malaya 800m² w/hse 928-3267 • 9202001

Villa Paramita 4 Units 59 Sct. Borromeo 928-3267

SAN JUAN

San Juan P. Guevarra 300 P10M • Tel. # 723-2391

OTHER AREAS

Canumay Barrio Bagbagin 1876/m² w/Whse 928-3267

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

House & Lot Alabang Hills LA475 3BR+Den 533-5525

KALOOCAN

600T W/Off Ext 2TB CP 4553763

LAS PINAS

• BF Resort Bnew 2sty 4BR 4TB Ter 2.6M • 872-6951

• BF Resort Bnew 2sty 4BR 3TB Ter 2.9M • 872-6951

MOONWALK VILLAGE LA181m² 3BR Bungalow P1.5M Vic/ Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

MAKATI

HL Bel-Air2 with Income LA500 P30M • 911-7940

Magallanes 12M LA405m² 2Sty 4B Den Nice 534-7949

San Antonio Vill. 2Stry 100sqm w/Grge 870-8447

MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong LA360 FA400 2Sty 4B 5TB 3CG 534-7949

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Industrial Valley Mkna 5BR P4.5M (Neg.) • 681-9868

**Industrial Valley Mkna 5br P4.5M Jun 6819868

MUNTINLUPA

Sto. Nino Vill 149m² 3Bdrm P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARANAQUE

BF Hse&Lot Whse giveaway price; LA350m² FA650m² w/ cosmetic lab & whse w/ good H2O supply 7434126/ 7432015/4121711

BF-Pque B. New Hses In-Hse Fin. 655-0371 0919-4037225

HL Multinational LA580 FA512m² P5.6M •911-7940

PASAY

Hse & Lot 20M 498sqm 6313496

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PASIG

4BR Nice Valle Verde New w/Pool • 1277-37052

GREEN PARK SUBD. 225m² w/7Bdrm & 3TB FA264m² P4.5M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

Pasig City H&L A-250m² P2.5M • 534-6610

Valle Verde 4BR w/Pool Nice New • 635-6722

QUEZON CITY

411m² D. Tuazon St., QC Te.# 928-1469

600m² 5stry Bldg. & Whse Samat St. SMH QC 9281469

CONGVIL-P-I-PROJ8 400sqm=7M Bayanihan Vill 464sqm Proj8-7.5M T-9273526;3612353

Gulod Nova Q.C. P1.5M 9385949 / 9382866

House & Lot Quezon City LA200-300 3BR • 533-5525

Hse & Lot 20M 681sqm 9267100

Loyola Grand Villas New LA600 2sty 17M 534-7949

Loyola Grand Villas 4BR 6TB plus Mds and Driver Qtrs Tel 426-0835/ 0917-7062620

Mayon St SMH QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

Mira Nila QC 354FA 5br 5t&b 3stry 150LA 6.9M 928-9714 / 927-9609

WHITE PLAINS 4BR P16M 412-1825 / 150-341394

New Mla FA325m² 12.5M 3sty 5br 2cg New 413-4411

Nr. Ateneo 1Sty SD 4.4M 160LA 100FA BN 645-3731

Nr Ateneo FA348 LA206 4BR 3TB 8M 2CG 645-3731

Proj 7 Anahaw nr SM 3M 2sty 3BR 2CG 413-4411

Rush Sale Project 7 near SM City 200m² 5BR 3TB Family Area 2Cargrg Spacious Attic Call 415-8218 ; 371-1254

RIZAL

**Brookeside Cainta 2Houses 8.5M LA1169 H2° & Tel 6435313

Cainta Rizal nr. Hiway LA: 426m² Mrs. Reyes 6554556

Montevista Heights Taytay Rizal LA140sqm 655-4556

Rushl Owner Leaving! Antipolo 5M 0917-8143792

SAN JUAN

GREENHILLS WEST
Between ICA / Xavier
728sqm 2Stry Mansion
5BR/7TB w/Maids Rm
Drivers Rm Library 6Car
Grge. Tel 721-9376 • 636-7942

PROVINCIAL

**Royale Tagaytay H&L 10M LA622 4lb cor. Lot 6435313

HL LA371 FA279m² 5BR/TB Mds Rm P6.7 • 911-7940

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

Along Brgy DITA Sta. Rosa Road LA177m² 2sty 3BR 2TB Vic 8903461 loc. 27

Upper Bicutan 195m² 4BR P1.25M Vic 8903461 loc.27

VARIOUS AREAS

Over Looking Taal LotsH&L 938-7619/(0918) 505-8604

LOT

KALOOCAN

5,000m² Deparo Caloocan City • Tel.# 928-1469

LAS PINAS

•BF Resort 349 5.5T; 379 6T; 192 7T • 872-6951

MANILA

2464 SINGALONG NR ST. SCHO/LA SALLE T 5268632

Pipin St. near Espana Mla. Area 150m² 1.5M 5346610 Jo

MANDALUYONG

Boni Mandaluyong LA445 Nr McDO, 7-11, Jolibe 534-7949

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong LA3680 w/BG @15T/m² Only • 534-7949

MARIKINA

6500sqm Ind'l. Lot
cor. Evangelista & Pasco Sts. 6434553; 0917-4524836

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/direct access rd to FILINVEST Alabang 477m² P5,500/m² VIC/GIGI 8903461 loc 27

PARANAQUE

** BF-Pque Lots 280-350m² In-House Financing 655-8371 Cell. 0919-4037225

Gatchalian Subd. P4 Pque Only Vac. nr Church 5347949

Multi-National P'que LA600 V/L Jun • 681-9868

PASIG

**Valle Verde 6 720sqm 6558371 / 0919-4037225

Greenwoods Exec Village Pasig Soul/Park 534-7949

Origas Center Infront Tektite 5090m² 928-3267

QUEZON CITY

** SFDM QC519sqm 6558371 /0919-4037225

15th Ave. 500m² 25T neg. Facing East • 645-3731

3,300m² Along EDSA, QC Te.# 928-1469

COMMERCIAL LOT WITH BODEGA ALONG G. ARANETA AVE. COR. AGNO ST. AND HUNTERS ST. QC ONE BLOCK FROM QUEZON AVE.1,066.20 / 983.50 62.50 / 1,000SQ.Mtrs MANNY-7112977&711 2944

Fairview 150m² 4T/m² Sta. Lucia Prop Nice 645-3731

Mayon St. SMH P30M Area 960m² 216ts 534-6610 Jojo

Neopolitan Ph6 P4500/sqm 300/sqmFenced 6714421

NR. ATENEO 7T/SQ 242-1521

Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg. No Flood 645-3731

Proj. 2 203m² V/Lot 3.5M 928-3267 • 920-2001

Roxas Dist.200m² 18T/m² V/Lot 928-3267 • 920-001

Serrano Laktaw (cor. Lot) QC 300m² 13T/m² 928-3267

Nr SM Fview - 100m² Cash/ Term 372-0888/25/69

TIERRA PURA Q.C. 300m² P8T/m² • 928-3267

RIZAL

**Imelda Ave Cainta 464sqm 6558371 / 0919-4037225

**Along Marcos Baras Rizal LA1.8Has Jun 6819268

**Farm Lot Baras Rizal Along Marcos Jun 6819268

Taytay 1H Along H-way Nice 3.3T/m² 645-3731

TAYTAY LOT 9HA
GOOD FOR HOUSING
643-4553 • 0917-4524836

Taytay Nr. Comml Ctr Res Lots 58-112m² 2T/m² 6558371

Various Lots Nice Subd. P5T+/m² Terms • 911-7940

VL3000m² @P18T/m² Very Comm'l Ortigas • 911-7940

PROVINCIAL

1030m² Bacaue, Bulacan Piggery • 928-1469

1,600m² Overlooking Tagaytay • Tel.# 928-1469

Baguio Lot 236 & 278sqm Good Location • 531-3742

CHOICE LOTS AT TAGAYTAY CITY FRONTING CANOSSA HOUSE OF SPIRITUALITY SPECIAL PRICE AT P3,500/SQM FOR THE FIRST TWO BUYERS CONTACT JAB TEL NO (046)4133013 CELL PH. 0919 8314883

**Holiday Hills Sn. Pedro Lag. LA650 Jun 6819268

Malolos Bulacan nr. Sta. Rita Exit 3.8Hec 9283267

Resd'l/Comm'l Lot 551m² P3.5M Meycauyan 9117940

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3200/m² 928-3267

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

PROVINCIAL

Villa Segovia E Kingdom 296sqm 2Lots • 531-3742

OTHER AREAS

7049m² Malinta Valenzuela Tel.# 928-1469

Comm'l Lot 2300m² @ 16T/m² Malinta • 911-7940

Comm'l Lot 600m² Along Hway Malanday • 911-7940

Ibuna nr P.Guevarra 231m² 20T/m² w/Fence 928-3267

TOWN&COUNTRY S.VILLE 209m² P800T Vic 8903461 L27

Sta. Mesa Heights 480m² 210m² 18-20T/m² 928-3267

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

1BR Fully Furnished P3.5M Salcedo Vill. • 911-7940

2B Salcedo FA72m² P3.9M Tel.# 534-7949

Condo Alpha Salcedo 1BR Parking Phone Semi-Frnsh P3.8M Call:(0917)9280477

Millenium Mkt Ave P2.9M 1B FA55m² • 534-7949

nr GREENBELT 3br 250m² 25M 4121825 09177914366

nr GREENBELT 2br 130m² 12M 4121825 09177914366

Rush RITZ Twr 27th Flr 8230715

Westgate Salcedo 1B 1CG FF FA60m² P4.5M 5347949

MANILA

Sta. Ana TH 3BR 3TB 2ps P5.9 & 6.8M • 911-7940

MANDALUYONG

Condo New Unit 1-2BR's Mandaluyong • 533-5525

Various Mandaluyong Townhouses 534-6610 Jojo

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack² Tower 28 3TB Mds Rm 1ps P5.5M • 911-7940

MARIKINA

Nr. Ateneo TH Cinco Mkna Bnew 4BR FA350 681-9868

CONCEPCION 1M 3BR 2420922

PASIG

11M Beautiful HSE South Bay Paranaque 141-259275

6.5M Townhse Kawilihan Vill Pasig 141-259275

CONDO UNIT 123BR's Ortigas Ctr Tel.#533-5525

SACRIFICE SALE 5.2M Phoenix Hts 3BR 4121825

Renaissance 3BR 199m²@ 8.9M 223m² @9.5M 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

Cubao CondoP1.3M EZterm 9126976/9132224/4381480

4Dr Apt. Nr. Sm FV QC 2892895

Mapayapa Vill Thse P2.2M Terms Call 412-1652 Jen

New Mla 172m² Bnew 6M 2Sty 3BR w/2CG 413-4411

Nova P5T/mo.10yrs 9390299

Nr Ateneo FA149m² LA72 4M 3BR 2BT • 645-3731

Panay Thse QC Newly Ren. 3Sty 5BR P5M • 928-3267

RENT TO OWN
4BR/ 3TB, Cubao Bank Loan also Available P3.5M Call now 421-0423

Sta Mesa Hts 110m² 5M 3Sty 4BR w/2CG 413-4411

Teresa Hts Bung 240m² 4br nr SM Fview 3.5M 9283267

TH LA85m² FA165m² 3BR 3TB P3.3M F'view 9117940

TH LA91m² FA70m² 3BR 2TB @ P2.8M • 911-7940

SAN JUAN

South Admiral 490 sqm Rushl • Pager 1277-37052

Annapolis GH Condo 3BR 170m² Nice MdsRm 9283267

Eisenhower Twr 53.8sqm Furnished • 531-3742

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

VARIOUS AREAS

Various Condo Ortigas, Pasig, Manda. 5346610 Jojo

MEMORIAL LOT

Heritage Park Main Road Lawn @ P97T • 534-7949

RESORT

Fairways & Bluewater w/ Certificate C1 • 534-7949

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fairways & Bluewater w/ Certificate C1 • 534-7949

FONTANA SHARES 200T 928-3267 • 714-2867

FACTORY/WHSE

**Alab-Munti LA3000m² w/Whse FA2200m² Suc. Rd 643-5313

Mkti w'hse. 800m² 8509118

FARM/FISHPEN

FARM LOT 1.8 Has Baras Rizal along Hway 681-9868

Lipa 5h P220/m² 6Tm² 09182619717

Sta Crz Lag 3h P150/m² 0437780373

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2BR Tel Grg nr B'dia 8443622

QUEZON CITY

RES'L APTS
1)DNDrive Talipapa near Baker's E & Makro 2)Del Nacia nr Sauyo Elem sch 3743637;3743175;3744265

HOUSE

LAS PINAS

S'dieril renovated 8004884

MAKATI

SANLO 3BR
T # 5268048 & 49

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz
844-7524

•Legaspi 3BR F/F T8509118•

MANILA

Condo Alpha Salcedo 1BR Parking Phone Semi-Frnsh P35T/mo. (0917)928-0477

PASAY

Antel Seaview Roxas 1BR Studio 13-15T/mo 928-3267

PASIG

Alexandra 3BR@P55T/mo FF Ren 3BR UF P40T 681-2457

Valle Verde Thse 3BR 2Prkg Pool P25T/mo up 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

P5,500/mo.CUBAO
P6,500/mo.Malate
Call 911-3361 / 522-6648

SAN JUAN

2-3BR Ghills Furn Condo P25T • Pager 1277-37052

2BR 3TB Le Gran Condomn GREENHILLS •824-7758•

VARIOUS AREAS

CONDO MAKATI/ORTIGAS 2-3BR's • Tel.# 533-5525

FOR LEASE

Commercial Space 4 Rent Bangkal Mktl. 8447524

Mindanao Avenue
1,400m² Lot with 400m² warehouse with Office 9291863 / 09175255919

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BEDSPACE

P975/mo. AIRCON
Cubao 911-3361; 926-4072

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2 % Wut taking Car 3677523/24

CARS/STOCK/ETC 6320445

Fast Loan R/Estate & Car Financing Avail 4154936

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Edwin/ Gigie 8903461 Loc 25/27

BUSINESS RENTAL

MALATE OFFICES 5268048

P1,800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag 8086006/07

**Whse w/ Display Window 1700m² Pasig P100T/mo 643-5313

75sqm Ofc Space Bel-Air Mkt 8900151/09177905788

NO FLOOD MALABON 361-0652

Office Space Makati 75m² Up • Call Tel.# 533-5525

MAKATI
LEGASPI VILLAGE
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1 Condo Office Unit 46sq.m.
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Plus VAT and Assn.Dues
Available March 1, 2001
Tels. 818-2781; 751-5472

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

96LXI Autoblu 330T 8621746

HYUNDAI

2000 STARX A/T 9Str 270 D/P Neg. Bal. 45 mos. Ided 8230715

98Star X P175T Lmtd edit Assume Bal 0917-814379

Starex 98 MDL DSL 6313496

KIA

97Besta2.2 200T 3739938

Ceres 1996 P110T Dropside Nw Tires 6458678

MERCEDES

126M.Benz see 2 apprcte 6348160

MITSUBISHI

93Lancer GLI 200T 8621746

'94 LANCER TAXI CAB P150T • Tel.# 658-2410

Galant 99 VR6 A/T Silver 0917-8192224 / 931-8609

Mit S-Wagon Acq. 93 1own 6348160

TOYOTA

96 Corolla GLi 1own 634-8160

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Fully Loaded Model 1999
•Mitsubishi Lancer MX•
Model 1999
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BUSES/TRUCKS

NKR NPR Canter Carry FB Porter Lite-T-Ace Bongo Dump Mixer Cargo A. Van 4-6-10w 9126976; 9120647

BOATS

LCT 750 DWT P10M neg. Call 722-2044 / 721-0789

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex, L300, Coaster Bus Cars 637-7396 631-3496

CAR VANS 413-5383

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CARS•VANS•8978113•8955888 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8969956

HIACE L300 URVAN 8257135

L300 VV (Roger) 578-8917

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

Toyco Trans Cars Vans w/ or w/o driver 800-6595

MB E200 4535288;9296250

•Car;Vans4535288;9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3670169

1.5% w/o taking car OR/CR R/EstateLoan LO%4154936

2% w/o taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HOME APPLIANCE

SONY WEGA Brand New TV 21" P15,800 Call 8205702

PETS

AM Cocker Reg/Shots Art 8531181

Shitzu F 15T 9176500920

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

URGENT: Minervista and Verticalista CALL:532-8021

FEMALE

Mac/PC Graphic Artist
Female Acctg. Clerk
Sales Secretary
for Printing Company
716-2738•716-3340
Near Stop 'N Shop

MAIDS direct hire 8425736

MAIDS Direct Hire 7284971

Office SEC. w/ Computer Knowledge Apply w/ Photo 7677 Jacinto St, (Near Washington) Makati City

Wanted MIDWIVES
De Ocampo Memorial
Medical Center Pls Call 7151891-94
Look for Ms. Edna Calacal

ADM./ FIELD STAFF
Female, can work with min. supervision, can handle assigned task inside or outside the office. Apply at: FOODWORLD MFG. CORP. 292 8Th Ave (East), Kal.City 9AM TO 12NN only

MALE/FEMALE

CARE GIVER T-5280722

Film Scp Writer PO BX 63 Mla

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

· ADM./FIELD STAFF
Female, can work with min. supervision, can handle assigned task inside or outside the office. Apply at: FOOD-WORLD MFG. CORP., 292 8th Ave. (East), Kal. City 9 a.m. to 12N only

Graphic Artist 722-2267

LICID Nurse needed Call 9249935

OfcPerson'l 9134470 Jenny

OFFICE STAFF PLS. CALL MS. REYES AT #7366660

Lic'd Nurse
Needed Call 9249935

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

• Financial Broker-GREG • 8218228/PAGE 141-182829

TELEMARKETING 2477469

BANGUS ONLINE
Open for dealership
http:/bonuanboneless@safeshopper.com 932-8059

•EARN FR HOME 8531008•

ESSENTIAL SEMINAR
on Feb. 17, 2001
at Dusit Hotel Mktl
FOR THOSE WHO INTEND
TO WORK ABROAD
Phone: 891 5602 & 891 5632

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN Term Must be Employed 2778166

RTW WHOLESALE 3714226

TRAVEL OPPOR 893-7903

TShirt Fac.Price 4383147

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given of the extrajudicial settlement of estate w/ sale executed by the heirs of Dominga S. Tingson on 1/15/01 before Notary Public Atty Elsa V. Perlas of Pasig City per Doc 113, Page 89, Book XCIV Series of 2001.
(PDI - Feb 1,8 & 15,2001)

Notice is hereby given of the loss of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company Stock Certificates Nos.: 129684, 36364, 116975, MFU33774, 110898, 98344, 98343, 92460, MF092459, MF076763, MF067706, MF057539, MF048469, MF041546, MF041547, MFU13463, MF026335, MF026336, MF018777, MF0012696, MF09769, MFU4441, MF04898, MFU3295, 129685 under the name of Harry G. Fullen and/ or Rosa R. Fullen. If no one contest after one (1) year new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 8, 15 and 22, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Col. Felix L. Cabreros P.A.** has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc.# 64, Page# 14, Book# 01, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Policarpio R. Zacarias of Makati City.
(Feb. 15, 22, & Mar. 1, 2001)

PERSONAL

HAPI MONTHSARY & HEARTS DAY ANDREW SWEETIE! BADUY BA? HEHE I LOVE YOU SO MUCHI-AISH

HPY VLTINE TO MY OAOL JUN&KIDS; TIFFANY ROSE TYRONNE-DR. JET TOLEDO

NOEMI PEREZ,
JUST A SURPRISE TO LET THE WORLD KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME. YOUR SOMEONE WHO GIVES MY HEART A REASON TO SMILE AND I LOVE YOU FOR THAT!
LLOYD LIM

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

MANNING AGENCY to be established soon at Manila to recruit seamen for dry cargo and tanker vessels requires:

GENERAL MANAGER with good managerial skills and with good experience in related position.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT with adequate academic qualifications and experience in similar position.

DOCUMENTATION MANAGER/P.O.E.A. LIAISON with related experience and knowledge.

SECRETARY with excellent English and qualifications including computer word/excel etc.

Full C.V. with photo and reference letter to be mailed to:

P.O. BOX 13444, Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

AMPARO CHUA, JESUSA CHUA,
SALVADOR CHUA, HILARIO CHUA,
ARMINA CHUA and FROILAN CHUA,
Petitioners,

SSC CASE NO. 10-15076-2000

- versus -

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
and **UY SIM,**
Respondents,
x--x

SUMMONS

TO: **UY SIM**

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS (Makati) Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, your Answer to the Petition filed by Amparo, Jesusa, Salvador, Hilario, Armina and Froilan, all surnamed Chua, on their claim for benefit accruing from the death of Ty Lian Hoo a.k.a. Lim He Lai.

You are further required to serve a copy of your Answer upon the petitioners at 817 Espeleta Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila and upon the SSS thru the Senior Vice-President, Legal and Collection, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, **February 2, 2001.**

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

ANNOUNCEMENT

SOFIA (PIA) AQUINO, has a pending Warrant of Arrest in Criminal Case No. 118474 issued by Regional Trial Court City of Pasig, Branch 267, for **Estafa**.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

WARNER LAMBERT CREDIT COOPERATIVE
23rd Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center
No. 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 864-3725; 888-6001 Loc. 725
Fax No. 864-3679; 864-3622

(PDI – Feb. 11 & 15, 2001)

FREE SEMINAR ON U.S. JOBS

Come to a FREE SEMINAR on jobs for nurses in the United States. This is only for CGFNS passers. It will be held at the Crispina Building, 1589 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2001. Register now! Call Leah at 0917-475-7071.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS, CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS 817-47-11 * 817-47-12 * 817-47-13
817-5017 * 817-5018 * 817-5014 * 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2562 * 815-2660 * 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

NOTICE OF SALE

The Public Estates Authority (PEA), is inviting prospective buyers for any one or all of its four (4) parcels of reclaimed lands located at the Central Business Park I - Island A in Pasay City with the following areas, to wit:

Block	Area
C2	23,735 square meters
C3	28,500 square meters
C4	19,766 square meters
C5	16,861 square meters
Total Area	88,862 square meters

The sale shall be done by and through direct negotiation with PEA.

Individual prospective buyers should be Filipino citizen and in case of corporations, the same must at least be 60% owned by Filipinos.

These parcels of land will be sold on "as is, where is" or rawland basis.

The selling price shall be subject to negotiation with PEA.

Any party interested to submit his offer to buy shall file a bid surety in an amount equivalent to 10% of the price offer.

For any inquiry or additional information relative to this Notice of Sale, please contact the undersigned at the Public Estates Authority, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City or at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 & 817-6918.

(Sgd.) CARLOS P. DOBLE
General Manager

(PDI – Feb. 15, 18 & 24, 2001)

AUCTION

HUGE QUANTITY OF SUPERB QUALITY EXECUTIVE, GENERAL OFFICE, LIBRARY AND CANTEEN FURNITURE

Over 800 lots Including

(32) EXECUTIVE OFFICES Containing: -, Single Pedestal Wooden Desks w/ Returns; Double Pedestal Wooden Desks; Glass Topped Meeting Tables; Wooden Meeting Tables: Glass Topped Centre Tables; Marble Topped End Tables, Wooden Credenzas; Wooden End Tables; Large Wooden Storage Cabinets; Wooden Framed Guest Chairs; Two/Three-Seater Leatherette/Fabric Upholstered Sofas; Fabric Upholstered Arm Chairs; Wooden Shelf Units; Back Cabinets; Steel Framed Shelf Unit; Desk Lamps etc. CONFERENCE ROOM FURNITURE - 16', 10' and 8' Wooden Conference Tables; White Boards, etc. GENERAL OFFICE FURNITURE - Single/Double Pedestal Wooden Clerical Desks; Wooden Typewriter Tables; Four/Three/Two-Drawer Steel Filing Cabinets; Wooden Pigeon Hole Cabinets; Wooden Mail Room Furniture; LAMEX Type Storage Cabinets; Steel Framed Chairs; Leatherette Clerical Chairs; Two-Drawer Steel Pedestals, etc. LIBRARY FURNITURE - A Large Qty. Of Wooden Book Shelves; etc. RECEPTION FURNITURE - Reception Desks; Fabric Upholstered Chairs; Leatherette Sofas; Wooden Magazine Racks, etc. CANTEEN FURNITURE - Wooden Canteen Tables; Monoblock Chairs; Single Door Refrigerators, etc. MISCELLANEOUS - Wooden Display Boxes; PVC Floor Protectors; Wooden Plant Holders; White Boards; Cork Notice Boards; Horizontal/Vertical Blinds; Pedestal Fans; Desktop Fans

AT: 7th, 8th & 14th Floors Multinational Bancorporation Centre,
6805 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
ON: Saturday, 17th February 2001 at 10:30am Sharp
ON VIEW: Friday, 16th February 2001, 9:00am - 5:00pm
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP10,000 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER & CO. (PHIL'S.), INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jolliland Building, 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-852 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **Emylene Cabale** of Pulang Damo, Diamond Village, Dasmariñas, Cavite, whose picture appears above is not in any way connected with **Llahona Insurance Agency or Bounty Manpower Resources** with office address at **Rm. 202 Fairtrade, Ortigas Avenue extension, Cainta, Rizal**. Any transaction entered into with **Emylene Cabale** will not be honored by said companies. **Llahona Insurance Agency** and **Bounty Manpower Resources** are not engaged in recruitment of workers locally, or abroad.

(PDI – Feb. 15, 2001)

Your connection to better people, better jobs.

JOBMarket ONLINE

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective February 1, 2001 issue.

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
(National Edition)
Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

JOB MARKET
(Metro Manila Edition)
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

Color Surcharge for NC and JM
1 spot color - 30%
2 spot color - 60%
Full color - 80%

CLASSIFIED ASSETS
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.
- No color surcharge

* Rates are VAT exclusive

MERCEDES CALANGI CASTILLO

of Talaga East, Mabini, Batangas

"CHED"

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 11, 2001 at the age of 50.

Her loving mother **Inay Loleng**; sisters **Consor, Medy, Lita, Mahleeh, Cecille**; brothers **Toyet** and **Fandoy**; her sisters-in-law **Connie** and **Gina**; brothers-in-law **Tony, Mimi, Ading, Oscar** and **Rudy**; her nephews **Bongbong, Leo John, Butch, Reynan, Russel, Sherwin, Joel, Jose Victor, VJ, Renz, Mike** and **Andre**; her nieces **Yayan, Trina, Tricia, Nina, Sheila, Angiec, KC, LA**; her grandson **Ralph Vincent**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at Talaga East, Mabini, Batangas.

Interment will be announced later.

"We know that in all things God works for good with those who love Him, those whom He has called according to His purpose."

Roman 8:28

Our dearly loved

TERESITA "Tess" PERALTA ARANDA

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 11, 2001 in Glendale, California at the age of 74.

Her loving husband **Tony**; children **Guing** and **Tony Ramos, Bill** and **Tina, Leo** and **Monette, Josie** and **Ricky Jimenez, Ting** and **Desiree, Mags** and **Randy Ang, Dina (†), Jon, Ben** and **Jong, Thelma** and **Jay Sugay, Joey**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Cremation will be on Thursday, February 15, 2001 after the 10 a.m. Holy Mass at Incarnation Church in Glendale, California.

LORETO PERILLA PEÑARROYO

Peacefully joined his Creator on 10 February 2001 at the age of 70.

He is survived by his wife **Milagros Sanchez Peñarroyo**; children **Butch** and **Lily**, and **Ronnie** and **Iya**; grandchildren **Mark Anthony, Tristan Joshua** and **Beatrice**; brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue, Pasig City.

The remains will be transfer to St. Anthony Parish Church at Singalong, Manila on 16 February 2001.

Interment will be on Saturday, 17 February 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Anthony Church.

Atty. HONORATO ESTRADA VELASCO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 13, 2001 at the age of 68.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes (Chapel 2-C), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 17, 2001 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 11:30 a.m. Mass.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Cor. 5:8

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
Jn 14:6

The Board of Directors and Officers of

PRUDENTIAL LIFE PLAN GROUP

condole with the family of

Zenaida T. Alba

Wife of **Francisco A. Alba**, President - Prudentialife Group

who passed away in the Grace of Our Lord on February 12, 2001.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 17, 2001 at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Daily Masses will be said at 7:00 every evening.

We extend our condolences to her family and loved ones and join the pious readers in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Jesus said: "I am the Resurrection.
If anyone believes in Me,
even though he dies he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in Me
will never die."
Jn 11:25-26

The Employees and Sales Associates of

PRUDENTIAL LIFE PLAN GROUP

deeply mourn the passing away of

Zenaida T. Alba

August 16, 1936 – February 12, 2001

We join her bereaved family, husband **Frank** and children **Albert** and **Triccie**, **Sonny** and **Amelia Ann**, **Katrina** and **Raul**, **Carlos** and **Christine**; grandchildren **Ana**, **Paolo**, **Luigi**, **Iya**, **Itos** and **Miguel**; father **Leonardo Tiongco**; mother **Felicidad** (✝); sister **Myrna Peña**; brother **Conrado Tiongco** (✝); relatives and friends in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Daily Masses will be said at 7:00 every evening.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 17, 2001 at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life and I shall live
in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

Our Dearly Beloved

Zenaida T. Alba

Peacefully joined our Lord on February 12, 2001 at the age of 64.

Her loving husband **Frank**; children **Albert** and **Triccie**, **Sonny** and **Amelia Ann**, **Katrina** and **Raul**, **Carlos** and **Christine**; grandchildren **Ana**, **Paolo**, **Luigi**, **Iya**, **Itos** and **Miguel**; father **Leonardo Tiongco**; mother **Felicidad** (✝); sister **Myrna Peña**; brother **Conrado Tiongco** (✝); relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 17, 2001 at the Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Car thieves still up and running

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

FILIPINO motorists can afford some of the hottest wheels the world can offer, but they may take no comfort in the insignificant reduction of car theft cases in 2000 versus 1999.

According to the National Police Traffic Management Group, 1,877 motor vehicles were reported stolen last year—a fraction of an improvement compared to the 1,909 documented cases in 1999.

A senior lawmaker advocating stricter controls on interisland shipment and dismantling of motor vehicles expressed alarm that big-time car theft syndicates have reportedly stepped up their illicit activities this year, in apparent anticipation of improved sales across the industry.

From Jan. 1 to Feb. 5 of 2001 alone, 144 motor vehicles have been reportedly stolen.

Impediment

"The single biggest impediment to the law enforcement drive against car theft is the fact that many lawmen are themselves directly or indirectly involved in the illegal activity," said Rep Eduardo Gullas in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER reported in 1999 that car thievery is among the five most luxurious and profitable crimes in the country today. Statistics showed that the figure was on the uptrend at that time, averaging six car thefts a day. The total value of these stolen cars was estimated at P600 million. In terms of profitability, car theft even surpassed the collective ransom money from kidnapping, which was P300 million.

Statistics submitted last year by the Philippine National Police-Traffic Monitoring Group (PNP-TMG) to the House committee on public safety and order also indicated that the total number of reported car theft cases dropped to 1,901 in 1999 from 2,492 in 1998.

Big drop

The figures showed that car theft cases declined to a daily average of 5.2 in 1999 from 6.8 in 1998.

The big drop in car theft cases last year was a marked contrast to the steady year-on-year increase in car theft cases from 1994 to 1998, according to Gullas.

However, Gullas warned motorists that there would likely be a resurgence of car theft cases this year "owing to the failure of the authorities to neutralize syndicates enjoying the protection of active and dismissed lawmen."

"We're afraid big-time car theft syndicates will step up their illicit activities this year as motor vehicle sales improved with the expected economic recovery," added Gullas.

The savage highway

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

ASIDE from gaining fame as the locus of People Power I and II, Edsa is fast gaining infamy as a savage highway.

Savage in the sense that it is primitive, wild and uncivilized as far as safety features are concerned. In a previous column ("Edsa: A dangerous puzzle," PDI, 9/21/00), Edsa's inadequate and misleading road signs were pointed out as dangerously confusing motorists unfamiliar with the new tunnels and overpasses built to accommodate the Metro Rail Transit, not to mention the new traffic flow directions necessitated by the drastic mutation of Edsa's landscape.

Edsa's savagery as a highway was confirmed at around 2:30 a.m. one Sunday ago when its dark southbound tunnel before the Ayala Avenue intersection claimed the life of a young motorist. There was no sign posted along Edsa to warn this or other motorists that the tunnel was closed to traffic after 10 p.m.

Mike Lapuos, 20, a graduating Computer Science student of De La Salle University, saw the barricade too late and swerved to the right to avoid it. But in the process, his car spun out of control, hit a wall, spun again and rammed a lamppost. While Mike's companion in the car was only slightly injured, it took some time for a rescue team to extricate Mike from the twisted wreckage. His skull was cracked and he died in the emergency room of the Makati Medical Center after an hour, according to Manila Times columnist Reli German, who is a friend of the grief-stricken Lapuos family.

An INQUIRER news item last Thursday reported that Mike's parents, Ed and Chita Lapuos, plan to file charges against the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Makati City and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) for failing to put up a warning sign about the closure of the tunnel at night. It is about time that the MMDA and the DPWH were hauled to court for criminal negligence imperiling motorists plying Edsa. (Since Edsa is a national highway, Makati City Hall could argue that it is not under their jurisdiction.)

Not only should there have been a warning sign posted in advance of the tunnel's entry ramp, this sign should have been reflectorized and/or lighted up so as to be clearly visible to motorists at night. The barricade or roadblock should have been brightly lit, too.

Even in daytime, motorists risk life and limb whenever they drive through Edsa's tunnels because these are inadequately lighted and barricades, construction debris and obstacles are scattered every which way along the sides. Edsa and its hellish tunnels are infinitely more dangerous at night. The builders of the Edsa MRT have not cleaned up their mess after construction of the MRT was completed and neither the MMDA nor the DPWH seems to care that these things pose a safety hazard to the motoring public.

With new men at the helms of the MMDA and DPWH, we all earnestly hope that Edsa will be transformed from an outrageously savage highway into a safe, civilized one.

* * *

A DELUGE OF E-MAIL ABOUT THE E-PASS. Maybe it's because it's easier to communicate via e-mail, but in more than 10 years as a motoring columnist, I have not received so many letters and messages as I did after I wrote "Why the Skyway is not always faster" (PDI, 2/1/01). I received 28 e-mailed letters from readers but opened only 26 because two were attachments, which are risky to open as they may contain a virus. Of the 26 letters I read, 25 expressed support and agreement with my opinion that the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., in a desperate effort to coerce motorists to subscribe to its overpriced E-Pass, is increasing traffic gridlock, wasteful fuel consumption and air pollution along the South Luzon Expressway by depriving toll-paying motorists of exit lanes in favor of E-Pass subscribers. One reader proposed using People Power to overcome Citra's harassment of and discrimination against motorists who cannot afford or refuse to buy the E-Pass while another offered to join an indignation rally or sign a petition versus Citra's dedicated E-Pass lanes policy.

The most colorful letter, addressed to Citra marketing manager Olive F. Martinez, came from Marc Haydens, who had complained last October about the unopened Lane 16 at the Nichols Toll Plaza. Citra had replied that they expected to open Lane 16 before the end of November 2000 when the toll collection equipment is delivered and installed. Last Jan. 31, Mr. Haydens wrote to Citra: "*Buwisit kayo!* It is now February 2001 under a new President and Lane 16 is still closed. *Ang swapang ninyo!*"

Thank you, Mr. Haydens and all you readers who e-mailed. I have forwarded printed copies of your letters to Ms Martinez at Citra. In reply to queries from some of you, Ms Martinez can be reached at epass@info.com.ph and fax numbers 776-3933 and 776-7055.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: "Is there life before coffee?"

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

Jaguar global sales reach record high

EXPORT performance was again very strong with 75,028 cars, around 80 percent of Jaguar sales worldwide, making a significant contribution to Britain's car industry balance of payments.

Jaguar North America enjoyed its best every year with sales in the United States of 43,728 cars. This represents a 25 percent increase over 1999 when Jaguar sold 35,039 cars in the United States. For December, Jaguar recorded sales of 4,235 cars.

As anticipated, the United States' "love-affair" with the S-Type was a major contributor to Jaguar's overall export success. In its first full year of sales, total sales registered 24,507 cars, or an increase of 58 percent from 1999.

The Jaguar XK Sports series enjoyed its best year ever in the United States with sales up 9 percent over 1999 at 6,729 cars sold—comfortably outselling the Mercedes SL.

Export sales to Continental Europe rose 25.8 percent to 21,401 cars—another record—with virtually every market in Europe reporting all-time record sales during the year. Sales in Italy increased 72 percent to 3,797 cars: France increased by 48.5 percent to 2,3?2 cars; and Belgium increased by 35.1 percent with 1,606 cars sold.

Sales in the United Kingdom were down 3.1 percent to 15,003 cars reflecting the slowdown in the UK market.

Major sales gains were also reported from Jaguar's markets outside Europe and North America. Sales in Japan rose 21.7 percent and in the overseas markets including Australia, China and Singapore, sales increased by a third.

Verso: A little automotive irony

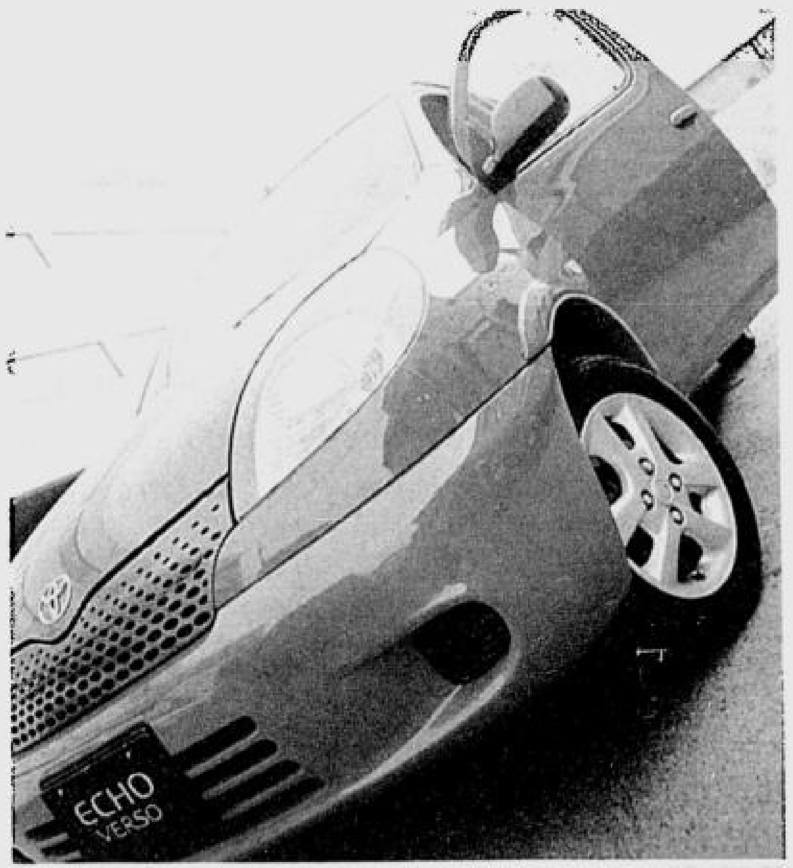
BY TESSA R SALAZAR

THIS time I wove through cramped highways with a chic, lipstick-red multipurpose vehicle without my conscience pricking me in the heart. No need to feel guilty as I occupied just a fraction of the Third World-sized highways. In fact, I wasn't even occupying much of my own lane. No surprises here. I was driving the Supermini Echo's equally mini sistah: Verso.

It sure wasn't Valentine's Day the time I drove it, but loads of red balloons sure would have fit inside the Verso's back. Take note: all rear seats are foldable into the floor. You start to appreciate clever new advances in automotive designs. Imagine, from a family transporter that could seat up to five people, it becomes a two-seater, which could carry a medium-sized cabinet.

That's it. Lots of storage; double-console glove box, front and rear cupholders, under pocket, front- and rear-door pockets, under passenger seat or pull-out tray, front scuff side pockets and rear center seatback tray with cupholders. Pretty complete for a small thing, huh?

Though some car enthusiasts would dampen some spirits saying they wouldn't expect much driving excitement from a car like this, I say it's got speed when speed is needed. This may even be an understatement. It's equipped with a Variable Valve Timing-I, a function that could help valve timing adjust to engine speed and accelerator pressure. Hey, who said you could race Versos anyway? And if watching the fuel gauge is your concern, the Verso is a treat for the fuel misers.



ECHO VERSO

MIKE ALQUINTO

ECHO VERSO SPECS

5-Speed Manual Transmission

Type: VVT-IM, 4 Cylinder In Line DOHC 16V, EFI (Electronic Fuel Injection System)

Displacement: 1,497 cc

Bore & Stroke: 75.0 x 84.7 mm

Compression Ratio: 10.5:1

Maximum Output: 106/6,000 HP/rpm

Maximum Torque: 145/4,200 Nm/rpm

Tires/Wheels: 175/65 R14/5.5J X 14" alloy

Overall Length (Length x Width x Height): 3,860 x 1,690 x 1,680 mm

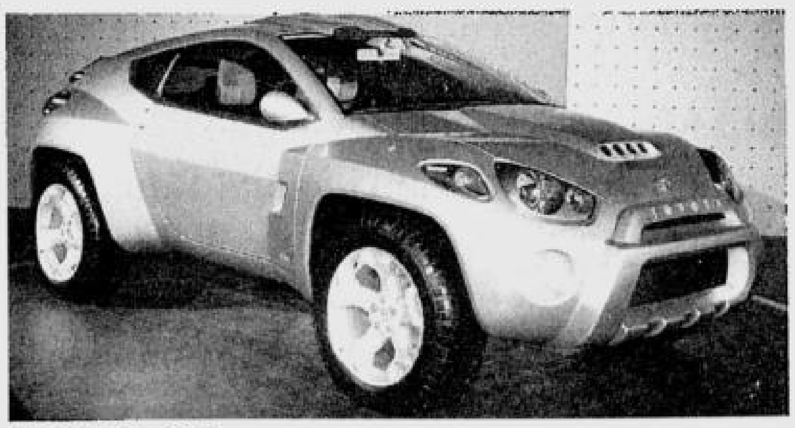
Wheelbase: 2,500 mm

Curb Weight:1,000 kg

Minimum Turning Radius: 5.1m

Fuel Tank Capacity: 45 L

With power windows and door locks, door ajar warning, head lamp leveling adjuster, light turn off warning, front map lamps



CONCEPT CAR

REUTERS

The Toyota RSC concept car is unveiled at the Chicago Auto Show in Chicago Feb. 7. The car is a cross between a sport-utility vehicle (SUV) and a sports car.

Mendiola, Flores top Shell slalom series

DR. Peewee Mendiola bagged the overall and production series best time of the day in the just concluded 1st leg of the Race Motorsports Club Shell Slalom Series 2001 in cooperation with the 51st Araw ng Kabanatuan at the NFA Compound.

Mendiola of Shago 2 racing team clocked 47.57 bagging the P7,000 cash prize for both categories.

Daryl Flores in the meantime topped the Novice best time of the day, bringing home a P2,000 cash prize. He was followed by Jesse Generoso.

The event sponsors—Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Shell Velocity and Shell Citibank Mastercard—gave away Shell Helix Motor Oil to all class and overall winners plus Shell Super brake fluid. The event was co-sponsored by Firestone, Bridgestone, Fuji Film, Nodalo's Catalytic Converter, Forsch Ink Mobile System, Island Cove Resort & Leisure Park and Outlast Battery, the official battery of the Shell Slalom Series.

The 2nd leg will be held on Feb. 25 at Makro, Imus.

Pickups did well in 2000

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

HONDA has become the early bird of Formula 1 racing.

Why? As early as Jan. 10, Honda ran its new RAOO1E engine. Olivier Panis was at the wheel of BAR Honda 003 at Silverstone and the Frenchman completed 37 laps of the Northamptonshire Grand Prix Circuit.

"We enjoyed a very good test at Silverstone," said Kazutoshi Nishizawa, technical director of Honda Racing Development. "The engine went into the new chassis very easily and we were able to complete a comprehensive systems check. Although it was only a shakedown, it was nevertheless an encouraging start to the new season."

Honda's Arnel Doria reported that Japanese sensation Takuma Sato has become the latest addition to the BAR Honda stable.

Sato, 23, earned rave reviews last year, finishing runner-up in his maiden season in the British Formula 3 and he will remain with the Mugen-Honda-powered Carlin Motorsport in the ultra-competitive F3 series for the ongoing F1 season.

"As Sato targets the prestigious F3 title," said Arnel, "he will enjoy being part of the F1 team, preparing for what promises to be a bright future."

Said Sato: "For me, my main priority in 2001 is to concentrate on my second year in British F3. If I get a chance to drive an F1 car again, that will be very welcome, but it was a great experience to get in the car during the winter."

* * *

Which vehicles are hot these days?

Oh, well, Ford's pickups are hottest because of special promo prices offered starting Jan. 15. Unfortunately, the promo ends today.

Go, grab one.

The 2.5-liter Ranger is priced at P590,000 for the XL variant, P699,000 for the XLT 4x2 and P855,000 for the XLT 4x4 model.

The Ranger SVT Pinatubo Edition is also available at P925,000.

* * *

Which pickup was No. 1 in 2000?

The Nissan Frontier, according to the Truck Manufacturer's Association.

The Frontier dominated sales in the double-cab compact pickup segment. It garnered an impressive 30.4 percent market share and a combined sales of 2,326 units for the 4x2 and 4x4 categories by the end of the year.

Universal Motors Corp. said the Nissan Frontier 4x2 standard comes at P648,000, which is a 2000 price.

The 4x2 Nissan Frontier elite MT costs P704,000 and P790,000 for the automatic variant.

The 4x4 Nissan Frontier MT is priced at P950,000 while the 4x4 Nissan Frontier Silver Edition costs P1.005 million for the MT and P1.045 million for the AT.

* * *

But wait, what about Isuzu?

For four straight years now, the Fuego outsold its rivals. It closed the year with 2,385 units sold in the diesel pickup category. With 2,014 units sold for the two-wheel drive pickup class, the Fuego took 39 percent of the market share.

The N series, Isuzu's No. 1 for two years in the light-duty mover category, topped its class, selling 1,009 units for a 56-percent share of the market.

With 4,303 units sold, the Hi-lander again ruled the AUV diesel category for a 37 percent market share.

And the handsome X-TRM? Well, it sold 2,220 units in 2000 for an impressive 50-percent market share.

Isuzu placed third in the overall commercial vehicle category with 8,299 units sold for the year. It beat 10 competitors while garnering 15.5 percent of the market.

Overall, Isuzu, No. 1 when it comes to diesel engines, had a 44-percent leap in sales performance in 2000.

* * *

In the country, pickups are the best-sellers.

That is understandable. Most of our folks prefer pickups in the provinces because they are mostly used in off-road conditions. They are also very handy when it comes to hauling farm implements and other "cargoes" related to rural life.

Here's to pickups.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **Check your engine oil once in two weeks. Over confidence could lead to serious engine troubles.**

VOLVO S80 2.0T

Safe can't be thrilling?

BY VERNON B. SARNE

VOLVO S80: Safety, good looks and performance rolled into one.

FAST FACTS

VOLVO S80 2.0T	
Type:	Front-wheel drive 4-door luxury sedan
Engine:	2.0-liter 20-valve turbo transverse 5-cylinder
Maximum power:	180 hp @ 5,300 rpm
Maximum torque:	240 Nm @ 5,280 rpm
Transmission:	5-speed automatic
Dimensions:	(L x W x H): 4.82 m x 1.83 m x 1.45 m
Wheelbase:	2.79 m
Front suspension:	Independent, struts and coil springs with anti-roll bar
Rear suspension:	Independent, multilink and coil springs with anti-roll bar
Brakes:	Vented discs in front; discs in rear
Safety	Countless features; the S80 is a rolling safety equipment
Wheels and tires:	16-inch alloys; 215/55 R16
Seating capacity:	5
Price:	P2,625,000

ONCE upon a time, Volvos sold chiefly on the merit of safety. Possessing perhaps the boxiest exteriors in all of the industry, the cars from Sweden would look like refrigerators on wheels if placed side by side with, say, BMWs. If people bought them, they did so because Volvos were credited for being the safest vehicles in the world—never mind that they were also probably the least visually appealing. Maybe, everyone figured that in an accident, a Volvo would emerge a lot better-looking than a badly mangled Benz, as vividly illustrated by Princess Diana's tragic mishap.

That was in the past.

Today, a Volvo owner can race neck and neck with the Bimmers and the Mercs without feeling ugly. Thanks to a radical revolution in styling that took place in the mid-'90s, Volvo cars are now paragons of design excellence just as much as of automotive safety. Which is nowhere more evident than in the exceptional S80 luxury sedan.

Appearance

The S80, Volvo's flagship model, looks absolutely nothing like its predecessors. Taking the place of stiff-looking edges and corners are sweet-flowing lines that seem to suggest the S80 was born and reared inside an air tunnel. The body sculpture is one seamless design motif that is confident from the hood all the way back to the taillights. Only the revered emblem on the grille identifies the car as a certified Volvo.

We are putting emphasis on the S80's appearance because ours is a market obsessed with physical attributes. I've always believed that while Europeans put performance and function over styling, and Americans pretty much regard both with equal weight, Filipinos generally are suckers for well-chiseled car bodies. Which is not to say we're imbeciles when it comes to evaluating a vehicle's other virtues. But we just really have a thing for beauty more than anything else.

Should anyone dare rebut this theory, here's one concrete proof. Last year, the S80 2.0T—our test unit, by the way—was the single best-selling variant of all luxury sedans sold here. Moving an impressive 112 units, the S80 2.0T bested erstwhile and perennial rivals from Germany. Another reminder to all carmakers doing business here that if they hope to sell a vehicle here, it had better be ravishing. (And an indication the new Honda Civic might not be as successful as its previous incarnations.)

The S80—slightly longer, wider and taller than the S70—is being sold here by Viking Cars in two versions: the 272-horsepower 2.8-liter T6 and the 180-hp 2.0-liter Turbo, both automatics (5-speed for the 2.0T). We drove the latter. A weekend with this car was all I needed to know why it's a best-seller. The S80 is packed with goodies your eyes can and cannot see.

High-tech

For starters, are you aware that the S80 is the most advanced car in the world in the field of multiplex communications systems? It means that the car boasts a high-tech, software-driven network of computer modules that electronically and intelligently control most of the vehicle's major functions, including the transmission, the brakes, even the traction control. It does this with a single cable, doing away with the conventional mesh of cables, connectors, and splices. The immediate results are a lighter weight and an increased reliability in operation. Think of the S80 as the one car that took a doctorate degree in electronics. We can't blame you for now thinking that your sedan has the IQ of Beavis and Butthead.

Inside, the S80 is as dignified as it is sporty outside. The gauges and controls that go with the leather seats (power-operated driver's) suggest a no-frills theme. It is one of the most logically arranged and configured sedan interiors we've seen in recent memory. And excellent headroom and legroom, we must add.

Engine performance

Failing to see a chink in its armor, we suspected we'd find one in the S80 2.0T's engine performance. It didn't happen. The engine, despite a relatively small displacement, packs a wallop, thanks obviously to turbocharging. We didn't think exhilarating was a word you could use to describe a Volvo. Nimble, smooth, no turbo lag, and acceptable fuel mileage. Ride quality, too, is worthy of a veritable luxury sedan. You will be hard-pressed to find another car that equally does well in balancing styling, performance, comfort, luxury and safety.

Did we mention safety? Indeed. We categorically say here that the S80 is the most secure ride you can get yourself today. Airbags, ABS, seatbelt pretensioners, crumple zones? Please. They don't even talk about these around a Volvo showroom. Try whiplash protection system (WHIPS), side-impact protection system (SIPS), inflatable curtains, and collapsible steering column.

The Volvo S80 2.0T sells for P2.625 million. If you want its stronger and gas-guzzling version, you can get the S80 2.8 T6 for P3.75 million. Fair deals, we think. Whoever said that safe can never be exciting must have been thinking of celibacy.

BMW tops Asian car firms anew, says Review survey

BMW has been ranked the top car company in Asia for the third time consecutively in an annual survey of corporate executives and professionals conducted by The Far Eastern Economic Review, which was published in its recent "Review 200" year-end double issue.

In addition, The Review also found that among all multinational corporations operating in Asia, BMW offered the highest quality of services and products. This is the second time running that BMW has won this coveted award.

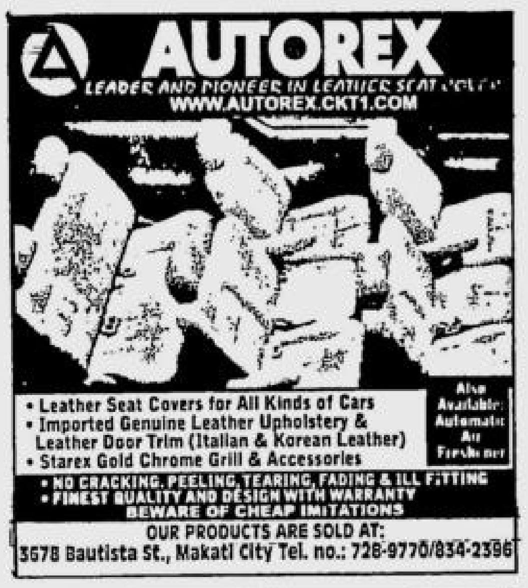
In the overall survey of multinational corporations, BMW moved up two places to 16th position from a year earlier—the highest placed car company. The Munich-based German luxury carmaker's closest competitor in the automotive industry was a distant 38th position. BMW was also the only carmaker to have improved its position from 1999's results.

"BMW is already well known as the ultimate driving machine, but we are also very dedicated to providing the best all-around motoring experience including quality of customer service and after-sales care. We are pleased that The Review's survey has shown that our efforts are paying off," said Felix Herrnberger, president of BMW Asia Pte Ltd.

Headquartered in Munich, BMW AG has been steadily raising its investments and commitment to Asia to tap into the world's fastest growing automotive market. Today, BMW has subsidiaries in Japan, Thailand and South Korea; an Asia-regional office training center and parts distribution center in Singapore; a manufacturing plant in Thailand; and a representative office in China.

In 1999, the BMW Group delivered 69,000 vehicles to customers in Asia, contributing 7.36 percent of the BMW Group's worldwide sales of Euro 34.4 billion.

The Review 200 is an annual readership survey that ranks which companies in Asia best exemplify selected qualities of corporate leadership such as customer service, product quality, financial soundness, long-term vision and innovation. The survey was conducted in 11 countries and was administered by ACNielsen, which also compiles the data. The Far Eastern Economic Review is Asia's premier business weekly and is wholly owned by Dow Jones & Co.



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Mercedes-Benz

Greenspan says US slowdown likely limited

WASHINGTON—The US economy will probably avoid a recession this year as businesses reduce stockpiles of unsold goods and strive for further productivity gains, according to Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan.

"The exceptional weakness so evident in a number of economic indicators toward the end of last year apparently did not continue in January," Greenspan told the Senate banking committee.

A surge in January retail sales underscores his view that a rebound may already be underway as businesses move merchandise out of stockrooms. Retail sales rose 0.7 percent last month, the largest rise since September, led by increased business at auto dealers and department stores, the Commerce Department said.

The Fed expects economic growth of 2 percent to 2.5 percent this year, about half of the pace in 2000 and the slowest since a 2.2-percent growth rate in 1995. "Downside risks predominate," Greenspan said, as consumer confidence threatened to fall, lenders remained cautious and a global slowdown reduced demand for exports.

Following two half-percentage-point reductions in interest rates last month, Greenspan's comments suggest the central bank is ready to cut rates again to encourage investment and shore up confidence. Still, further reductions may be few and smaller.

"If the forces contributing to long-term productivity growth remain intact, the degree of retrenchment will presumably be limited," Greenspan said.

Further rate cuts might be limited because economic growth might soon rebound, said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors in Holland, Pennsylvania. "The key point is: We're going to be cautious going forward in determining the extent of this slowdown," Naroff said.

President George W. Bush, who plans a $1.6-trillion tax cut, said he was "pleased" about the increase in January retail sales. Still, it was "one good statistic" amid a "sea of some pretty dismal statistics," he said.

In addition to the retail sales gain, which was the largest since a 0.8-percent rise four months earlier, payroll increases during the month were the largest since April. Businesses and governments added 268,000 jobs, reflecting a record increase in construction employment, recent Labor Department figures showed.

Builders needed those workers to help complete homes that sold in December at the fastest pace in more than two years. Single-family home sales rose 13.4 percent in December to 975,000 houses, Commerce Department statistics showed last month.

Excluding autos, retail sales rose 0.8 percent in January, the biggest increase since July. "The consumer is determined to keep the economy growing," said Steven Wood, chief economist at FinancialOxygen Inc., an Internet-based financial services company. "It's extremely unlikely to have a recession when consumer spending is growing."

Tuesday's sales report is good news for Fed policymakers, who reduced their benchmark overnight bank lending rate to 5.5 percent last month. The central bankers said in a statement Jan. 31, the date of the second half-point cut, that they were responding because "consumer and business confidence has eroded further."

The New York-based Conference Board's index of consumer confidence fell last month to 114.1, the lowest level since December 1996. Still, "although consumer confidence has fallen, at least for now it remains at a level that in the past was consistent with economic growth," Greenspan said.

January's rise in retail sales was led by a 0.6-percent increase in purchases at auto dealers. Sales of cars and light trucks rose to 17.2 million units at an annual pace, up from 15.5 million in December, industry figures showed earlier this month. That was the highest sales level since September.

"Unless there is a major sign of an economic downturn, vehicles are still a necessity so sales will stay strong," said Jeff Lowe, general manager at Century Ford in Rockville, Maryland.

Sales at department stores and other general merchandise stores rose 0.7 percent in January after a 0.4 decline in December, the Commerce Department report showed.

Last week, Sears, Roebuck & Co., the largest department-store chain, said sales rose 2.6 percent in January from the same month last year on strong demand for appliances, electronics, sporting goods and jewelry.

Bloomberg

Gov't seeks 1 year to sell stake in PNB

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is asking from the World Bank another year within which to comply with key banking reforms that will allow the Philippines to draw some $400 million.

"We plan to request for an extension so we could draw on the $400-million facility," outgoing Finance Undersecretary Joel Bañares said.

In 1998, the Philippines secured a $600-million loan from the World Bank and the Japan Bank of International Cooperation.

A first tranche of $200 million was disbursed in 1998, but delays in Philippine National Bank's privatization delayed scheduled disbursements in December 1999 and June 2000. The government owns over 16 percent of PNB.

The World Bank has set as one of the conditions for releasing the remaining $400 million the full privatization of PNB, the country's No. 4 lender.

The World Bank specifically questioned PNB's stock rights offering in 1999 that gave tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan control of the bank.

Apart from PNB's privatization, the World Bank also sought a tighter supervision of banks and an improvement in the performance of Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines.

Music.com set to publish magazine

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

NEW York-based Music.com Inc., a subsidiary of locally listed semiconductor firm Music Corp., is entering the magazine publication business through a joint venture with US firm Milor Entertainment Group.

The 50-50 joint venture will publish Music.com Magazine.

Music.com Magazine will be launched in April with an initial circulation of 250,000 copies.

Music.com earlier acquired Singapore's Xudio.com as part of its Asian expansion strategy.

The Internet firm is set to re-launch Xudio.com as Music.com Asia, a new site that will distribute Music.com brands in 13 countries and in eight languages.

Xudio.com offers free online music, information and resources to Internet users in the Asia-Pacific region, including those in Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan and the Philippines. Its partners include Philmusic.com and Chinese music portal Tom.com.

Doris C. Dumlao

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LIFESTYLE Tastes

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Robust servings and the warmth of bricks

VISUAL treat at the bar: A mural on North American history

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

DINING does not always require that you step out with a bulging wallet. If you love Filet Mignon, Lamb Chops, T-bone Steak and Norwegian Salmon, but have a hard time scraping together the cash for your favorite indulgence, or if you get a little tingle every time you think that someone else is paying four times as much as you pay for exactly the same piece of heaven, then Burgoo is your kind of restaurant.

As the American bar and restaurant celebrates its second anniversary, it launches 30 new dishes created by Albert Alavera, general manager, and Eileen Necio, kitchen manager. Their partnership was forged in 1995 when they were still working for an American-Italian restaurant.

"The choice of items has been based on what we think would be popular with diners. Fifty percent of these selections has been requested by our guests," Alavera says.

From 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., diners fill the 220 seats of Burgoo, located at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle, QC (927-7424/ 927-7384), snapping up not just the regular menu but the new array of 30 imaginatively prepared dishes, served in huge portions.

ROBUST/ p.C4

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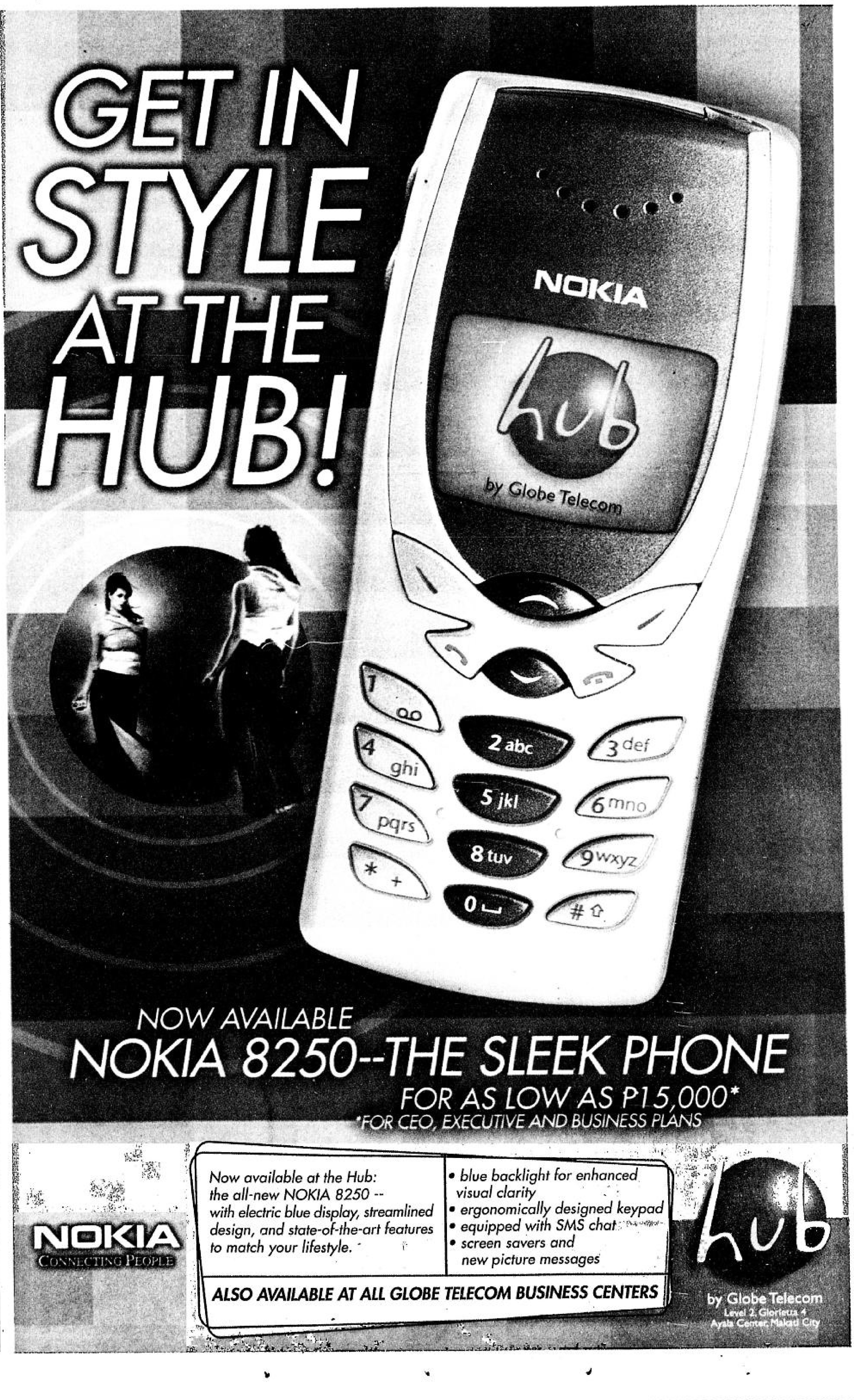

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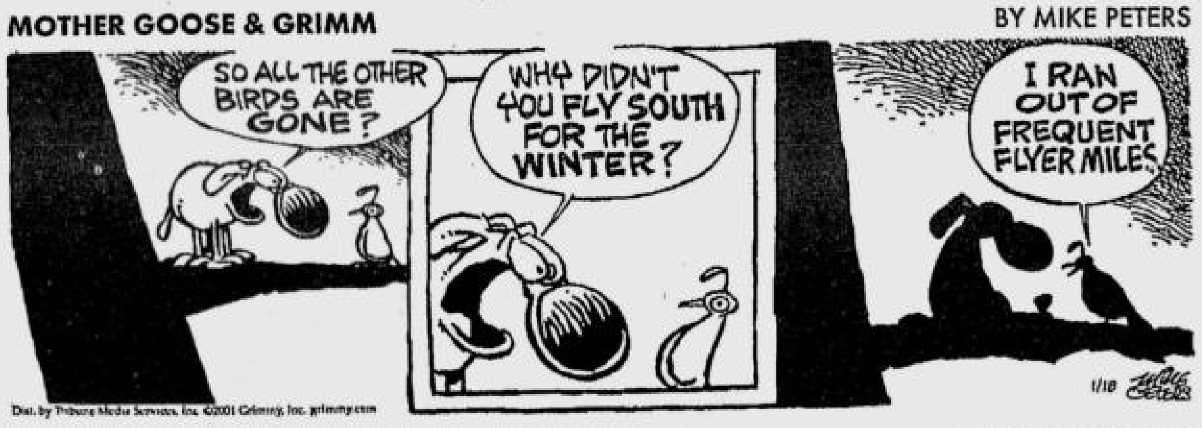
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SO ALL THE OTHER BIRDS ARE GONE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU FLY SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?
I RAN OUT OF FREQUENT FLYER MILES
1/18 MIKE PETERS

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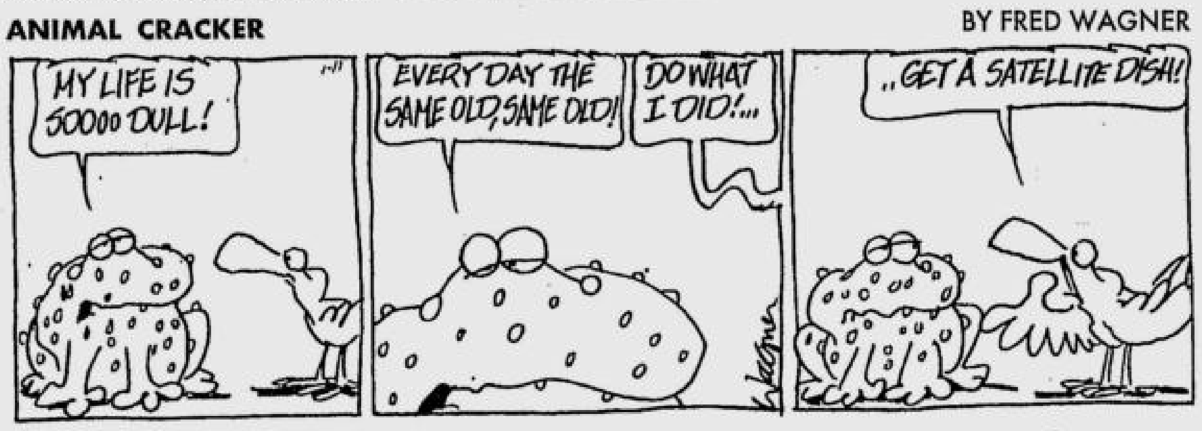
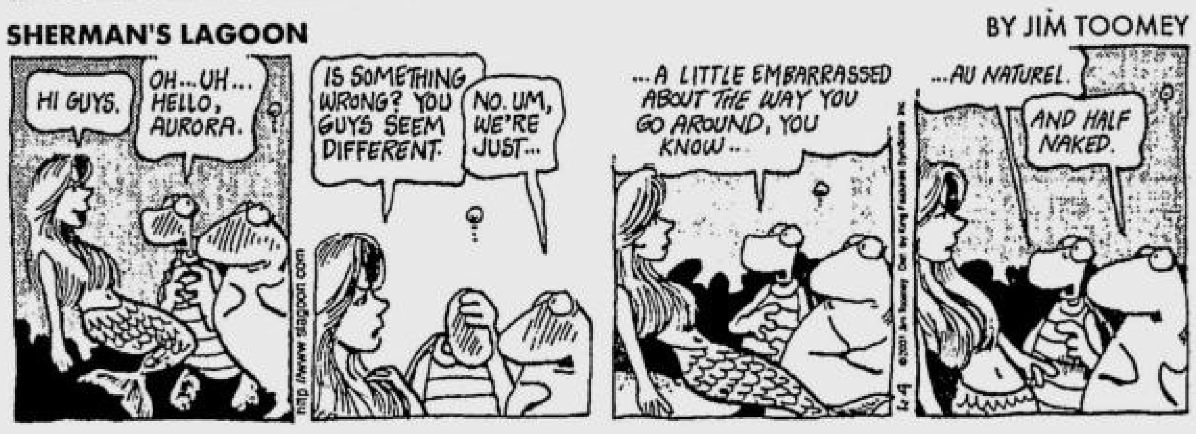
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


MY LIFE IS SOOOO DULL!
EVERY DAY THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD!
DO WHAT I DID!...
..GET A SATELLITE DISH!
WAGNER

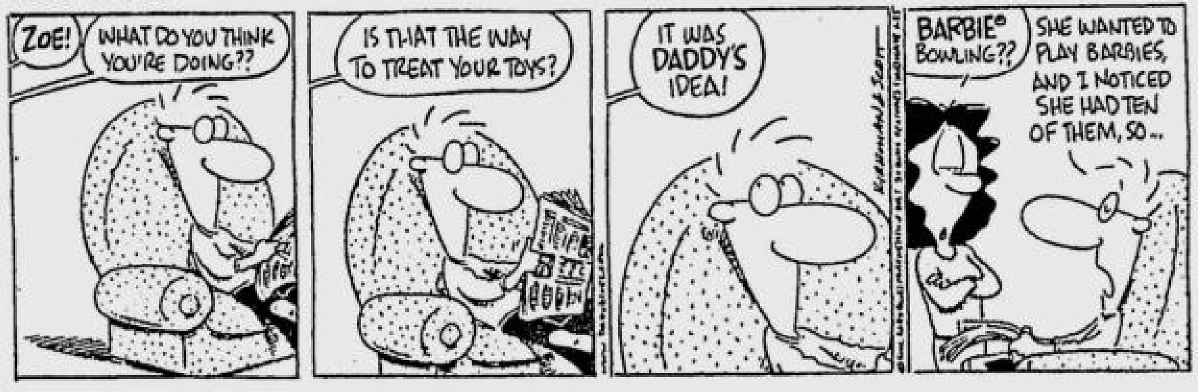
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HI GUYS.
OH...UH... HELLO, AURORA.
IS SOMETHING WRONG? YOU GUYS SEEM DIFFERENT.
NO. UM, WE'RE JUST...
...A LITTLE EMBARRASSED ABOUT THE WAY YOU GO AROUND, YOU KNOW..
...AU NATUREL.
AND HALF NAKED.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING??
IS THAT THE WAY TO TREAT YOUR TOYS?
IT WAS DADDY'S IDEA!
BARBIE® BOWLING??
SHE WANTED TO PLAY BARBIES, AND I NOTICED SHE HAD TEN OF THEM, SO..
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Barrymore, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Seymour, Claire Bloom, Graham Hill, Matt Groening, Melissa Manchester

Happy Birthday: You will intuitively know how to make your life better this year. You will be sensitive toward others and will gain popularity. You will have some great ideas, but shouldn't push them too quickly. You may be a little ahead of your time. Go slowly and do it right. Your numbers: 9, 14, 18, 22, 34, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your artistic talent will come in handy while doing renovations or redecorating. Property investments will pay off. Finish off old projects before you begin new ones.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Complete essential jobs that don't require input from others. It would be best to do your own thing today. Try to spend the evening with loved ones. Look after problems with elders.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Anger will mount if you've been evasive with your lover. Channel your energy into making necessary changes to your living quarters.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your boss is likely to dump some extra work on your lap. Be prepared to dig in and get it done before the weekend begins. Don't be surprised if he had an ulterior motive in mind.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll gain popularity by using your charismatic charm, not by picking up the tab. Your bankbook will suffer, and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will find it difficult to feel sympathetic toward those who really haven't done their share of the work. Anger has been brewing, and you must be cautious how you handle the situation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You're in an energetic mood and can get a lot done if you put your mind to it. You have original ideas for ways to make extra money. Get together with close friends and share your thoughts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let your friends convince you that you should be donating heavily to something you're not sure you believe in. You should put your money away in a safe, untouchable place.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your philosophical nature will be somewhat confusing to your mate. Don't apologize; you're both entitled to your beliefs. Follow your heart, but don't push your opinions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It is best to keep your ideas to yourself. Your partner is already having second thoughts about your relationship. Back off. Give him or her space.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will meet some interesting people. Get to know them better before you decide to let them in on your private thoughts. They will be attracted to your intuitive awareness.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will feel a bit threatened if you don't have enough work. Don't wait; start to look for a new position. You can make career moves that will be beneficial in the long run.

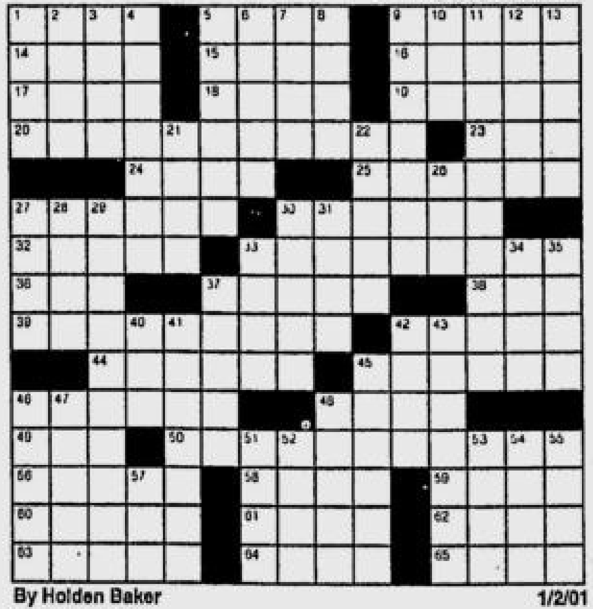
Birthday Baby: You have so much get-up-and-go. You are into everything and forever looking for adventure. You are diplomatic, but always walking a fine line. You know how to manipulate a situation and have no trouble obtaining help.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Writer Irwin
5 Former Russian ruler
9 Scattered (seeds)
14 Traditional knowledge
15 Soprano Gluck
16 Recumbent
17 October stone
18 Three-__ salad
19 Summer TV offering
20 Library denizen
23 Dent starter?
24 End of a table
25 Tammany Society leader
27 Quaking trees
30 Follow in secret
32 British peers
33 The true state of things
36 Waitress at Mel's Diner
37 Wharves
38 Wrath
39 Suspended until later
42 Coconut trees
44 Not so tough
45 Saunters
46 Authoritative pronouncement
48 Pre-stereo sound
49 CPR performer
50 Leader's followers
56 Battleship to remember
58 John Dickson or Vikki
59 Playwright Coward
60 Lewd looker
61 Chevron rival.
62 Has markers out
63 Requirements
64 Soothing additive
65 Pre-funeral rite

DOWN
1 Oscar Madison, for one
2 Navajo neighbor
3 Bedouin, e.g.
4 Strapping
5 No-no's
6 Caught Z's
7 Oriental nursemaid
8 Rajah's wife
9 Disseminates
10 Cal. neighbor
11 Not to be sneezed at
12 Accustom
13 Jeans material
21 Charged atoms
22 Exams for would-be attys.
26 Mrs. O'Leary's mooer
27 __-Romeo (Italian car)
28 Vended
29 Thrown object
30 Transparent
31 Challenging
33 Port or claret
34 Navy's rival
35 Kinski title role
37 __ ballerina
40 Morsel for Swaps
41 Moneylenders
42 Beaver's creation
43 Up to this point in time
45 President with a doctrine?
46 Evil spirit
47 Likeness
48 Explorer Polo
51 March Madness org.
52 Malone or Marx
53 Corn-belt state
54 Welsh symbol
55 Ultimatum word
57 Composer Rorem



By Holden Baker
Greenfield, MA

1/2/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

B	A	B	E	■	B	O	Y	S	■	T	R	I	L	L
I	L	L	S	■	A	L	E	C	■	A	U	D	I	O
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H	A	T	P	I	N	■	■	S	Y	N	C	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	N	A	I	F	■	A	G	A	T	H	A
B	A	N	J	O	■	R	O	A	N	■	R	A	I	L
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S	E	A	T	S	■	F	L	E	D	■	E	N	O	S

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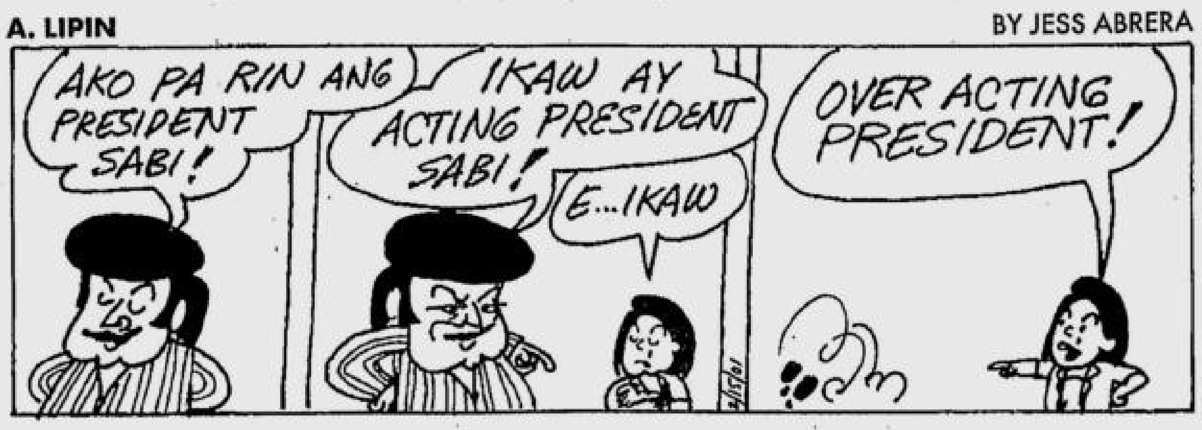
1/2/01

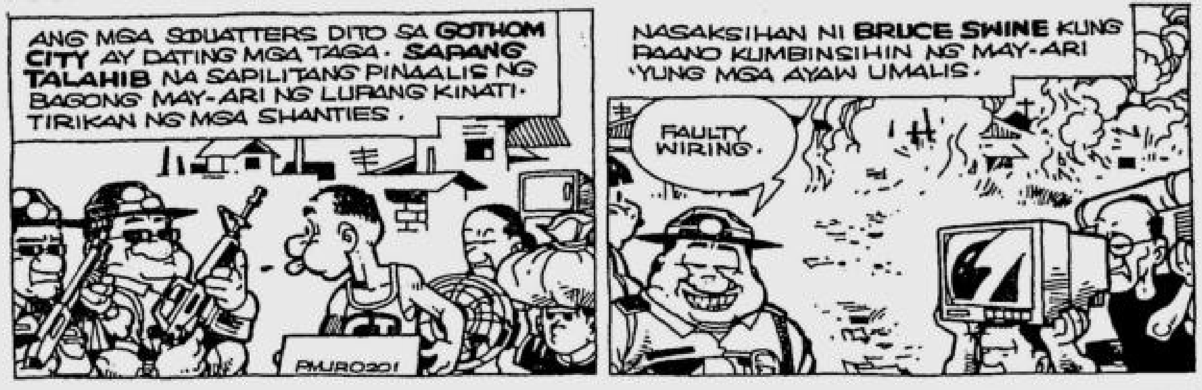
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AKO PA RIN ANG PRESIDENT SABI!
IKAW AY ACTING PRESIDENT SABI!
E...IKAW
OVER ACTING PRESIDENT!

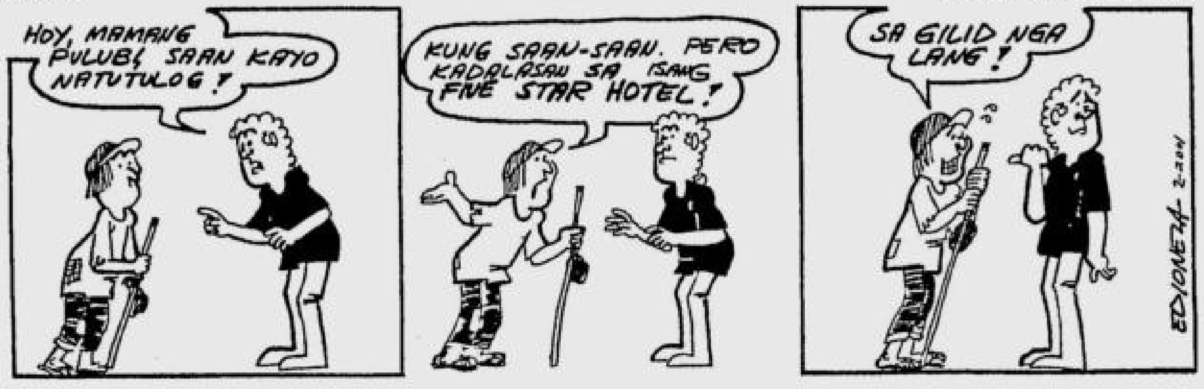
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG MGA SQUATTERS DITO SA GOTHOM CITY AY DATING MGA TAGA-SAPANG TALAHIB NA SAPILITANG PINAALIS NG BAGONG MAY-ARI NG LUPANG KINATITIRIKAN NG MGA SHANTIES.
PMJR0201
NASAKSIHAN NI BRUCE SWINE KUNG PAANO KUMBINSIHIN NG MAY-ARI 'YUNG MGA AYAW UMALIS.
FAULTY WIRING.

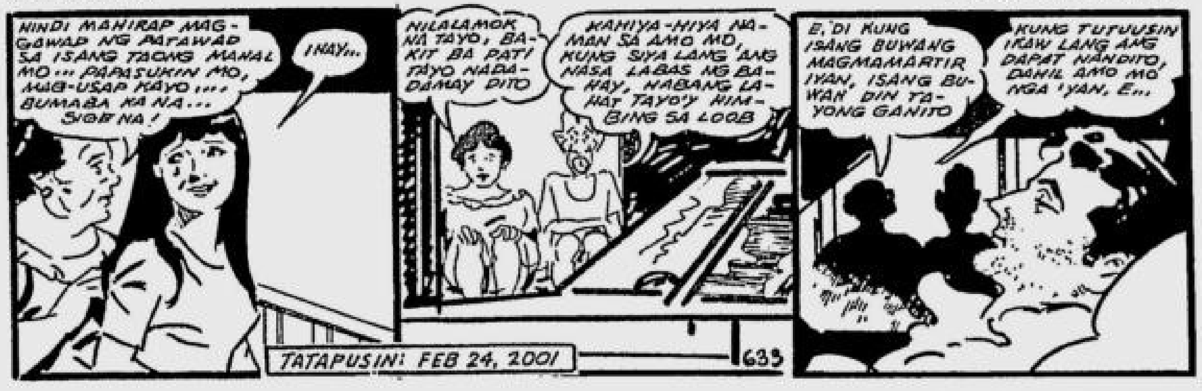
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HOY, MAMANG PULUBI, SAAN KAYO NATUTULOG?
KUNG SAAN-SAAN. PERO KADALASAN SA ISANG FIVE STAR HOTEL!
SA GILID NGA LANG!
EDIONELA 2-2001

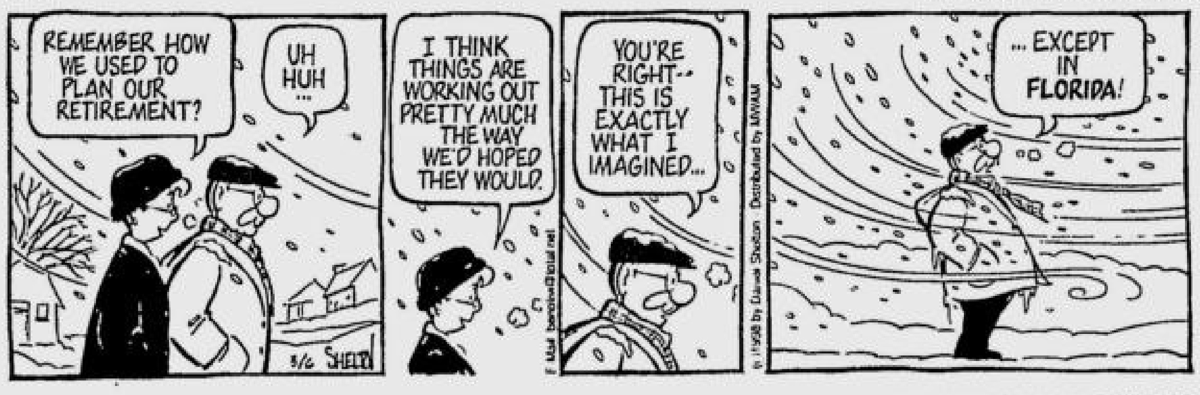
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


HINDI MAHIRAP MAGGAWAD NG PATAWAD SA ISANG TAONG MAHAL MO... PAPASUKIN MO, MAG-USAP KAYO...., BUMABA KA NA... SIGE NA!
INAY...
NILALAMOK NA TAYO, BAKIT BA PATI TAYO NADADAMAY DITO
KAHIYA-HIYA NAMAN SA AMO MO, KUNG SIYA LANG ANG NASA LABAS NG BAHAY, HABANG LAHAT TAYO'Y HIMBING SA LOOB
E, DI KUNG ISANG BUWANG MAGMAMARTIR IYAN, ISANG BUWAN DIN TAYONG GANITO
KUNG TUTUUSIN IKAW LANG ANG DAPAT NANDITO, DAHIL AMO MO NGA 'YAN, E...
TATAPUSIN: FEB 24, 2001
633

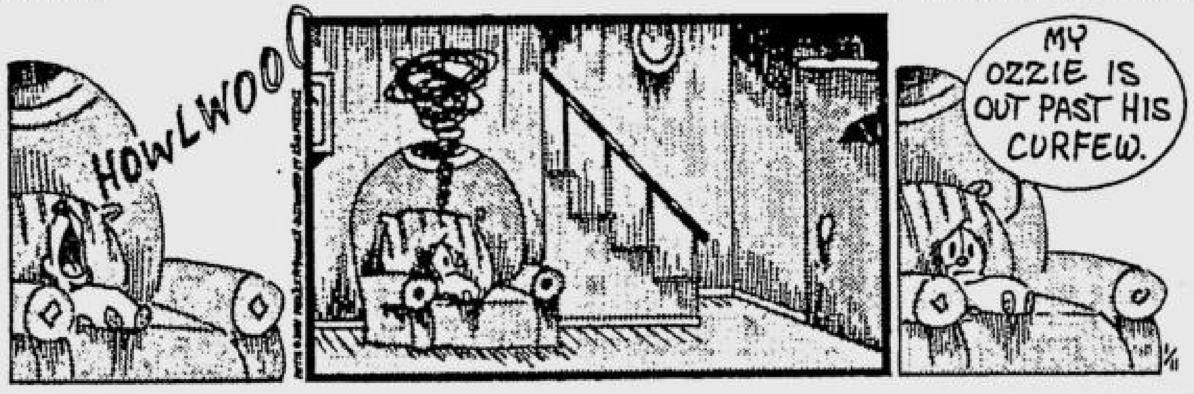
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


REMEMBER HOW WE USED TO PLAN OUR RETIREMENT?
UH HUH ...
I THINK THINGS ARE WORKING OUT PRETTY MUCH THE WAY WE'D HOPED THEY WOULD.
YOU'RE RIGHT-- THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I IMAGINED...
... EXCEPT IN FLORIDA!
3/6 SHELTON

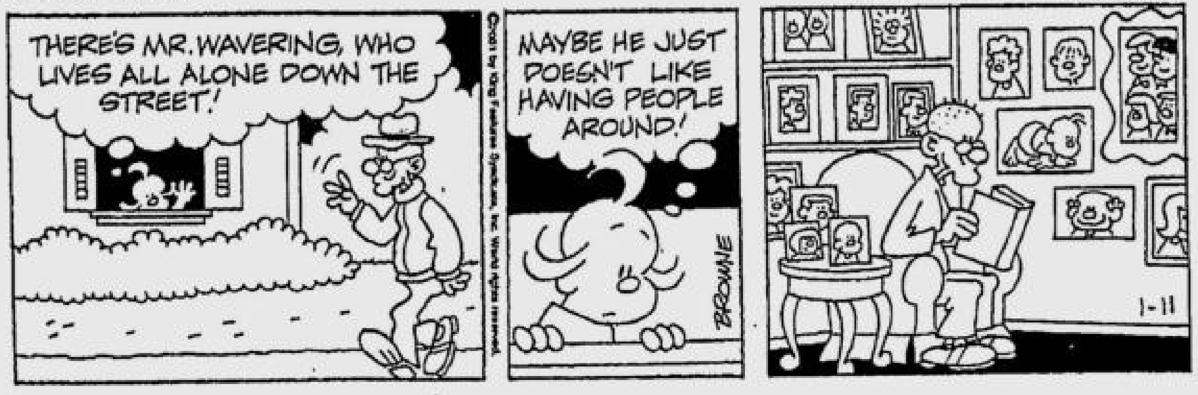
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOWLWOO
MY OZZIE IS OUT PAST HIS CURFEW.

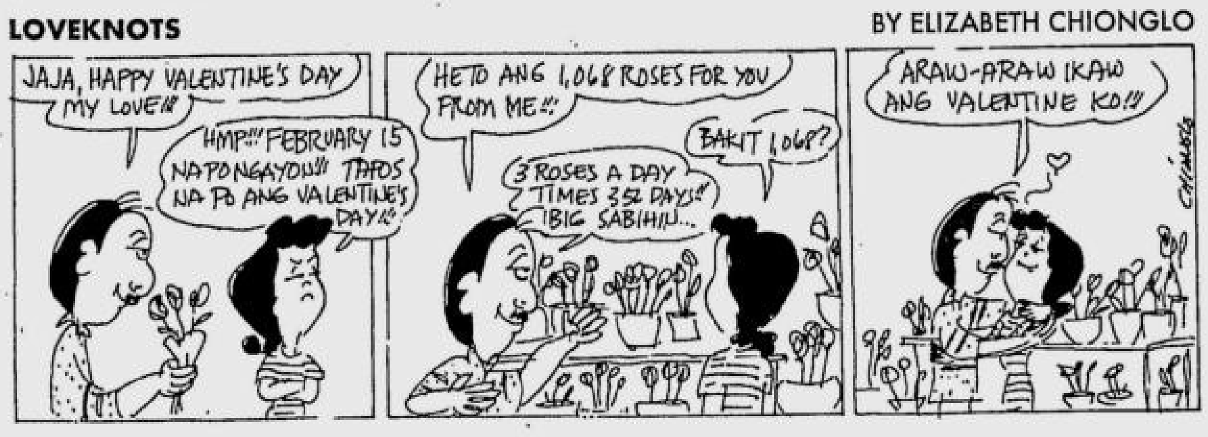
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THERE'S MR. WAVERING, WHO LIVES ALL ALONE DOWN THE STREET!
MAYBE HE JUST DOESN'T LIKE HAVING PEOPLE AROUND!
BROWNE
1-11

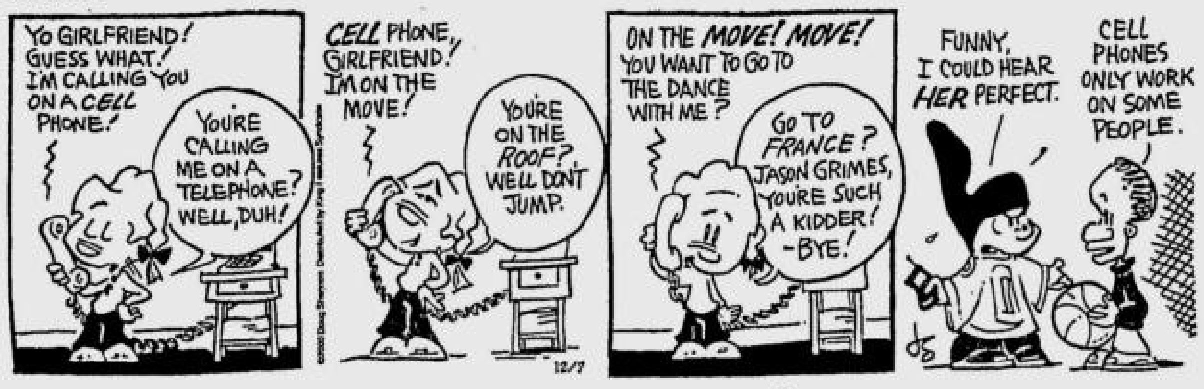
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY MY LOVE!!!
HMP!!! FEBRUARY 15 NA PO NGAYON!!! TAPOS NA PO ANG VALENTINE'S DAY!!!
HETO ANG 1,068 ROSES FOR YOU FROM ME!!!
BAKIT 1,068?
3 ROSES A DAY TIMES 356 DAYS!! IBIG SABIHIN...
ARAW-ARAW IKAW ANG VALENTINE KO!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


YO GIRLFRIEND! GUESS WHAT! I'M CALLING YOU ON A CELL PHONE!
YOU'RE CALLING ME ON A TELEPHONE? WELL, DUH!
CELL PHONE, GIRLFRIEND! I'M ON THE MOVE!
YOU'RE ON THE ROOF? WELL DON'T JUMP.
ON THE MOVE! MOVE! YOU WANT TO GO TO THE DANCE WITH ME?
GO TO FRANCE? JASON GRIMES, YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER! -BYE!
FUNNY, I COULD HEAR HER PERFECT.
CELL PHONES ONLY WORK ON SOME PEOPLE.

Penny-pinching tips

WITH RISING gasoline prices and a falling peso, you have to be more practical about your spending. Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce shares these tips on how to stretch your kitchen budget and still get flavorful, filling meals.

- Make at home instead of buying at the store. Don't be afraid to experiment in your own kitchen—you can save a lot if you make your own pork and beans, garlic bread and salad dressings, soups and sandwich fillings instead of buying these ready-made in groceries. Cutting up your own chicken and boning your own meat helps you save a considerable amount of money. (You can also use the bones to make homemade soup.)
- Make good use of leftovers. Use them to add more pizzazz to omelets and soups. You can also add most leftovers to dishes such as chili, stir-fries or casseroles.
- Buy only what you need. Plan out your menu for the week and buy only enough for each dish. If you have leftover vegetables or greens, marinate them in a little Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce to make quick sandwiches or salads.
- Get those garden gloves out and grow your own herbs, vegetables and spices. Seeds for easy-to-maintain vegetables and fruits such as onions, radishes, bean sprouts, squash or papaya can be bought in supermarkets or garden shops. Imagine—fresh tomatoes and peppers right in your own backyard.
- Pair the ingredient to the recipe. If you're cooking stews, hamburgers or casseroles, you can get away with less expensive cuts of meat than if you were going to grill a steak.
- Choose ingredients that pack the most punch. Each bottle of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce comes with a mixture of eight ingredients (tamarinds, cloves, chili, anchovies, shallots, garlic, molasses and vinegar) that would cost you a bundle if bought separately. You would have to buy an additional P30 (pre-gas-increase prices) of ingredients for every ¼ cup of marinade if you use local soy sauces or other local Worcestershire sauces. In addition, it just takes ¼ cup of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce to marinate 1 kg of beef or chicken as compared to ½ cup of soy sauce. Make use of that freezer space. It's usually cheaper to buy ground meat, poultry parts, steaks and chops in bulk. Take advantage of supermarket sales and stock up on these items. Leftovers can always be wrapped and saved for later use.

FLOWER SALE
20% OFF on selected items
Enjoy special values on decorative blooms
February 15 - 28, 2001
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0204 Series of 2000
QUIAPO • HOME CENTER MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

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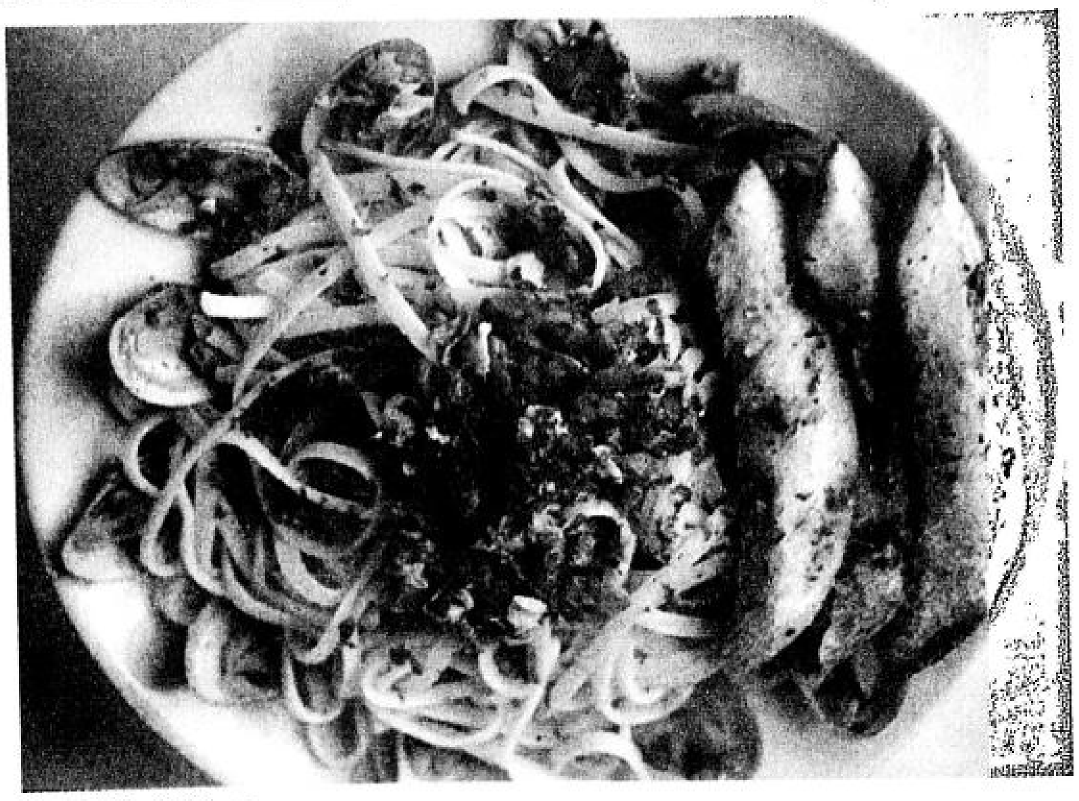
Gardenia® Fun Buns
Experience the goody fun way with new Gardenia Fun Buns. Delight in each bite of rich oozing flavor of chocolate. Each bun baked and packed fresh from the oven. So yummy. So goody! So funFILLING! Only from Gardenia.
Gardenia... Fun Buns
THE GOODY FUN WAY!
AVAILABLE AT SUPERMARKETS AND CONVENIENCE STORES

STA. FE Spring Rolls

At Burgoo, you'll find everything you've always wanted in a good meal, except a big check


LINGUINI with Clams

Robust servings and the warmth of bricks

(From page C1)

For appetizers, there's Quesadilla, Bread with Spinach-Mushroom Dip, Sta. Fe Spring Rolls and Seafood de Napoli. Stone-baked pizzas come in the Frutte de Mare, Louisiana, Taco Mexicano and Margherita versions.

There are the obligatory pastas: Mushroom Alfredo with Chicken, Beef Stroganoff Linguini, Cheesy Beef Baked Macaroni, Stuffed Chicken Parmigiana and Linguini with Clams. Seafood sensations include Spinach Grilled Salmon, Quatro del Pesce, Red Snapper Classico, Prawn Oreganato, Grilled Squid a la Pobre and Oyster Parmigiana.

The meat lover can go for "steaks 'n ribs": Burger Steak, Grilled T-Bone Steak, Filet Mignon and Lamb Chops.

Bucking the trend

As a result of the money crisis, diners go more often to restaurant chains, which proffer frozen or vacuum-packed food reheated in stoves or microwave ovens. It's a more efficient way of doing business but the quality of cooking suffers.

Alavera and Necio have bucked the trend by offering simpler and quicker dishes of distinctive taste and style, served at half the price and in half the time as other haute cuisine establishments.

According to Alavera, 70 percent of Burgoo's ingredients are imported from the United States, New Zealand and Australia. "It's hard to get fresh vegetables here, especially lettuce. And with the frequent occurrence of red tide, good oysters, mussels and clams are hard to find, too."

Guests are given value cards on which they write their comments and suggestions. Guided by these notes, Alavera and Necio conduct product testings for three to six months. Out of the 70 items, for instance, only 30-40 percent pass the test. The two chefs further develop the selections.

Since eating out has become a national craze among Filipinos, Alavera and Necio try their best to serve modestly priced food that allows them not to lose credibility.

Historical mural

The façade of Burgoo (which derives its name from a stew which originated in 17th century Kentucky and Illinois), a mix of yellow and red bricks, exudes country charm. Classic wooden chairs and tables stand on old brick flooring. The paper covering each table serves as a tablecloth and sketchpad where the server writes his name and diners draw with crayons while waiting for their orders. A handsome 16-seat bar of antique mahogany occupies a corner near the entrance. Set against a mural depicting North American history, the bar offers a variety of alcoholic mixes. Its open kitchen invites customers to take a peek at how the staff prepares food.

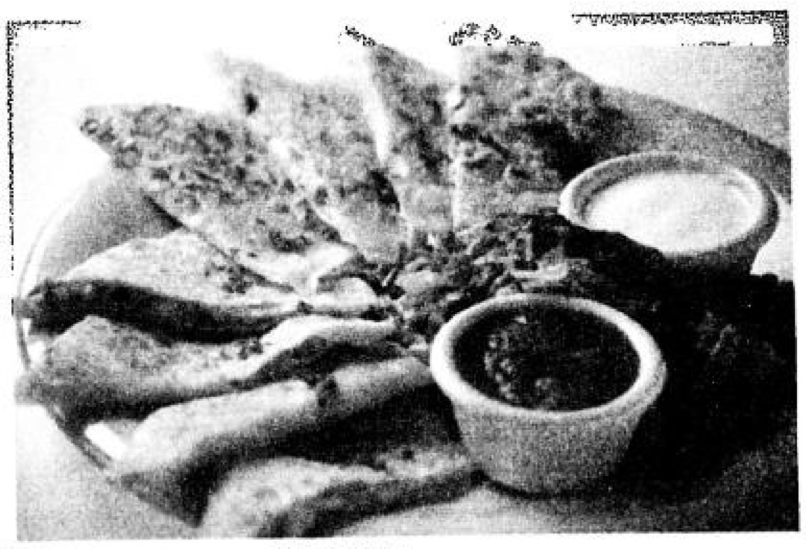
Alavera makes sure his staff lives up to the restaurant's objective of making the guests' dining experience a momentous occasion in terms of quality food, service, value for money and cleanliness. He had worked at the first outlet of Pizza Hut in Makati as a dishwasher. The young marketing graduate bent uncomplainingly to the task and soon rose to become a dough maker, server, assistant manager and vice president. He was then hired by Italianni's as director of operations. He also had the chance to work in Chinese and American-Italian restaurants in the United States. "My passion for cooking has made me forget my initial dream of working in a bank."

On April 18, Burgoo will shower diners with more flavorful surprises at its second outlet at Power Plant in Rockwell, Makati. "Like the branch in Quezon City, it will also serve American food," says Alavera.

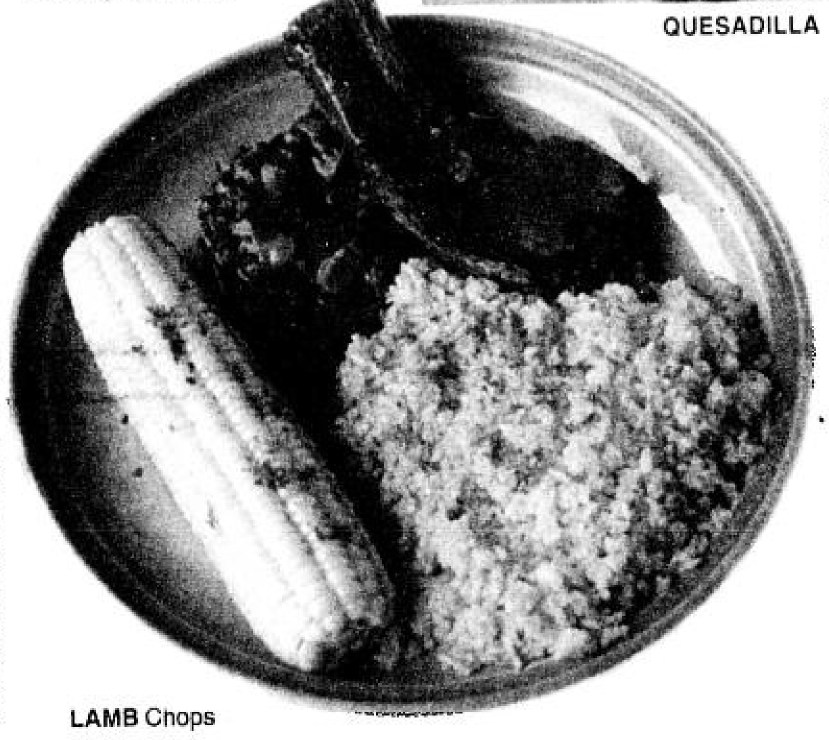
Those will be in big portions, the American way.

E-mail the author at rburgos @inquirer. com.ph

BREAD
Pudding a la Mode


QUESADILLA

QUATRO del Pesce


LAMB Chops

Authentic HK dimsum from authentic HK chef

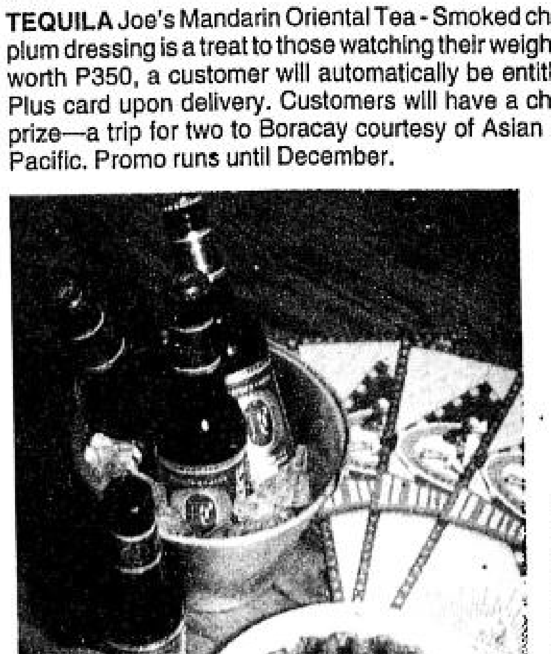
SAVOR authentic Hong Kong dimsum as Mandarin Oriental Manila presents guest chef Leun Kin On of Hong Kong in a culinary festival dubbed "Hong Kong Dimsum Adventure," from Feb.19-March 4 at Tin Hau. Guest chefs will provide diners a taste of Crispy Mashed Taro Cake, Baked Lotus Seed Paste Puff, Baked Egg Tart (Portuguese style), Glutinous Rice Ball with Mango, Deep-fried Crispy Porcupine Shape Bun Stuffed with Diced Chicken and Mushroom in Curry Sauce, Black Mushroom in Black Pepper Sauce. Call 750-8888 local 2422 and 2424.

DINING OUT

HOLIDAY INN. Caribbean Barbecue on weekends start Feb. 23. Watch out for chefs in action all set for a barbecue cook out. Then partake of a buffet with salads such as Rice Salad with Ham and Pineapple, Cubane Salad, Octopus Salad, Seafood Cheviche, Mango Chutney, Haiti Pickled Vegetables, Heart of Palm Salad and Spicy Chicken Salad. Have a plateful serving of Seafood Skewer, Fruit Kebab, Marinated Chicken, Fish Fillet wrapped in Banana Leaves, Kingfish Steak, Marinated Porkchop, Lamb Cutlets and Vegetable Skewer. Then choose from a wide range of desserts like Cocos Fried Banana with Chocolate Sauce, Coco Quema Do, Rum and Coffee Cream, Sweet Syrup with Cassava, Brazo Filled with Ube and Tropical Fruits. Call 526-1212 local 2294.

SALO. Ideal for sampling dishes from all over Asia, Salo offers Indonesia's *Rendang*, Thailand's *Phad Thai* and *Thai Pomelo Salad* to Korea's *Beef Satay*. This resto not only boasts of its wide variety of Asian cuisine, but also grilled dishes, desserts, recipes of rice and noodles, which are all prepared by their chefs. Have bottomless rice at only P30. Bar options include coffee, assorted teas, cocktails and a fine selection of wines to choose from. Visit Salo Restaurant at Sgt. Esguerra Street, QC.

TEQUILA Joe's Mandarin Oriental Tea - Smoked chicken salad with hoisin plum dressing is a treat to those watching their weight. For a minimum order worth P350, a customer will automatically be entitled to a Joe's Mileage Plus card upon delivery. Customers will have a chance to win the grand prize—a trip for two to Boracay courtesy of Asian Spirit and Pearl of the Pacific. Promo runs until December.


OUTBACK
Steakhouse offers a bucket of four ice-cold Fosters Beer paired with a serving of Bloomin' Onion—for only P500. The Perfect Mates are available at Outback's branches at Glorietta IV, Makati City and Libis in Quezon City.

HYATT. Chef Shinji Furukawa offers Japanese favorites on a dinner buffet—now available Tuesdays and Thursdays at Tempura Misono! From freshly made sushi, maki and sashimi, to the extensive selection of mains, chef Shinji offers an evening feast fit for a "shogun." A sampling includes udon and soba, teppanyaki, teriyaki, yakitori, tempura, salads, desserts, and a whole lot more.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA. Cheval Blanc takes you on a journey to the champagne regions of France with guest Sommelier, Christopher Vincent until Feb. 16. Share memorable moments this month with your loved ones with the pleasures of fine champagne and special set menus for lunch and dinner prepared by Chef de Cuisine Eric Costille.

PATIO GUERNICA on J. Bocobo St. in Malate is holding a pasta buffet for only P280 per person. Customers can mix their own noodles and sauces just the way you want it. The buffet includes soup for the day or mixed salad and garlic bread.

PEARL MANILA. Food for a healthy heart is served by The Pearl Manila at its Seven Seas Café during lunch and dinner for the whole month of February. Three set meals have been prepared by chef Romy Madriñan after consultations with a dietician of the Medical Center Manila. Menu 1 includes Solo Papaya with Shrimp and Mango Pearl, Minestrone Soup, Grilled Striploin of Beef with Pepper Corn Sauce, Rice Oriental, Buttered Broccoli and Cauliflower, Apple Pie, Coffee or Tea, Bread, Rolls and Butter. Menu 2 has Smoked Tanigue with Dill Mustard Sauce, Squash Flower Soup, Chicken with Pearl Mushroom, Yellow Rice, Spinach Timbale, Waffle with Strawberry Sauce. Menu 3 consists of Jamon Serrano on Baguio lettuce, Consomme of Beef Royale, Mackerel and Grouper Azure, Mushroom Rissoto, Vegetables, Choco Mousse. Pearl Manila is located on Gen. Luna Street corner UN and Taft Avenues.

Culinary gems from Filipino chefs

"COOKING with Filipino Chefs," a book project of the Center for Culinary Arts, Manila (CCA) with text by Michaela Fenix was launched to commemorate the school's fourth anniversary.

Released by Anvil Publishing Inc., the book features recipes of Filipino chefs like Sandy Daza, Gene Gonzalez, Susana Guerrero, Anne Guevarra and Myrna Segismundo, who all have unselfishly contributed for the completion of the book. The recipes featured are all culinary gems, which are surprisingly easy to prepare. Among them are: Filipino Green Salad with Guava-Calamansi Vinaigrette, Squid Stuffed with Shrimps and Wansoy, Coconut Mousse with Mango Pandan Sauce, Tanigue Fillet with Hot Mayo Dip, Panna Cotta of Carabao's Milk and Cheese and Pork Papillon à la Pobre.

The proceeds from the sale of "Cooking with Filipino Chefs" will be used to support a Thesis Scholarship Grant for needy but deserving hotel and restaurant administration and home economics graduates of the University of the Philippines who want to pursue higher education in the field. Susana P. Guerrero, president of the Cravings Group, is spearheading the scholarship drive.

"Cooking with Filipino Chefs" is now available at all National Bookstore branches.

Cooking demo at SM Southmall set

TEFAL, the world's No. 1 nonstick cookware, continues its mission of imparting smart cooking ideas to homemakers nationwide. Last year, it conducted more than 18 cooking demonstrations in major malls, with no less than professional chefs and culinary experts giving lectures and cooking demos. It was sponsored by Monterey Meats, Knorr Food Seasoning, Tecnogas and Prill. One of the experts that led the demos included chef Ben Casabon, vice president of the Hotel and Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines, assisted by Melvin Timtiman, brand manager of Tefal.

This year, Tefal goes to villages and subdivisions. The next cooking demo in a mall, however, will be at the SM Southmall in Las Piñas on Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. Call 890-9703 or e-mail mctimtiman@rgoc.com.

Tefal is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Rustan Marketing Corporation, a division of the Rustan Group of Companies.

Variations on a pesto theme

ASK NORA

Nora V. Daza

PAUL Gallo writes from New Jersey, USA: "I was pleasantly surprised to learn that pesto is known in the Philippines. However, there is a major ingredient conspicuously absent in your recipe, the *pignoli* nuts, also called pine nuts. Today, the pine nuts in the USA come mostly from China, but I have never seen them in the Philippines. They impart a subtle, nutty taste to the sauce and should be pounded with the garlic and basil. I commend you for using Romano cheese with the Parmesan. I suggest a mixture of flat Italian parsley with the basil; it gives a very fresh taste. Also, try it with roasted garlic for a smoky flavor. Since here in the New York area pine nuts are quite expensive ($8-10 a pound) I have on occasion used walnuts as substitute with good results. Maybe even *pili* nuts would work. Ah, the variations on a theme."

Thank you, Paul Gallo. I thought I had added pine nuts! I called my Italian friend. She says no, she does not add pine nuts.

By the way, pesto sauce was being sold in our Bahay Batchoy on Pasay Road in the 1980s. This was made by Babeloi Araneta Huni. I used to see these green bottles and some friends told me that they used the oil that would surface in these bottles, for other sauces and salad dressings.

However, for those who want to try another version of pesto, here's a recipe.

Pesto Sauce

1 c extra-virgin olive oil
8-10 cloves garlic
1/3 c toasted pine nuts
¼ c grated Parmesan cheese
4 c loosely packed fresh basil leaves
½ tsp salt
Freshly ground pepper

Pound all the above ingredients in a mortar and pestle or use a blender. Taste to adjust seasoning. Store tightly covered in the refrigerator. Or use a freezer plastic bag, with the pesto sauce pressed down so no air is trapped in the wrap. Air darkens the pesto sauce.

Potatoes for the roast

Lita G. Legarda asked me for the recipe of Potatoes Au Gratin. The amount of potatoes you will need will depend on the number of persons you will serve. This dish is usually served with a roast. It can be chicken, beef, pork or lamb. Somehow I cannot see this potato dish going well with duck. Usually, duck is served with something slightly sweet, like oranges. Duck is usually fatty, so I prefer a salad with duck. No strict rules really. This is just my own experience.

For the Potatoes Au Gratin, the baking dish is very important. Find a bake-and-serve dish. This is the usual way. However, I have seen this served in restaurants where there were nicely browned mounds of this dish.

When I prepared this recently, I had some for four days. It kept well most probably due to the cheese in it. This dish keeps. Just cover very tightly with plastic wrap and keep well chilled in the refrigerator. Just microwave what you need and serve.

Potatoes Au Gratin

2 kg large potatoes
2 c milk
1 c fresh cream
2 stalks leeks
½ tsp salt
¼ tsp freshly ground pepper
½-¾ c grated Parmesan
4 tbsp butter
1 clove garlic

Peel and slice potatoes thinly (less than ¼-inch thick). Have a pot of water where the sliced potatoes can be kept to prevent the potatoes from drying out or discoloring.

In a big saucepan, heat milk with salt, pepper and leeks. Have the leeks whole for the leeks are removed before the potato slices are baked. Once the milk is simmering, slide the potatoes into the hot milk. Allow the potato slices to cook for 10-15 minutes. Stir the mixture gently to prevent the potatoes from sticking to the bottom of the pan. Fish out the leeks. You are ready to bake the potatoes.

Prepare the baking dish by rubbing the bottom and sides with a clove of garlic. Or, you can chop ½ clove of garlic finely and sprinkle this on the bottom of the baking dish. The idea is to give some flavor to the baked potatoes without really having a distinct taste of garlic.

Arrange the cooked potatoes in layers on the baking dish. Sprinkle some grated cheese over each layer. The layers of sliced potatoes should reach to about 2/3 or 3/4 of the baking dish. Pour the cream over the arranged potato slices and add some of the milk where the potatoes were cooked. The level of cream and milk should reach the level of the sliced potatoes.

Spoon pats of butter over the top and sprinkle with grated cheese. (Do not add too much or you will end up with a thick topping of cheese. This should have just a light crust when baked.) Finally, top all this with grated nutmeg and bake in an oven at 350°. Remove from oven when top is lightly golden brown.

All these amounts given here are approximations for I have tried this with different baking dishes and I found that experience perfects the final product. The amount of milk and cream you add will depend on how soft you like the baked potatoes. The saltiness of this dish will depend on the cheese you add.

Actually, you can make this dish by directly arranging the slices of potatoes without cooking them in milk. Just rub the bottom of the baking pan with garlic, arrange a layer of sliced potatoes, sprinkle two teaspoons of grated cheese over each layer and have the potatoes reach at least 2/3 of the height of the baking dish. Mix your cream and milk. Season this with salt and pepper. Pour over the potatoes and sprinkle grated cheese on top. Dot with butter and sprinkle with nutmeg.

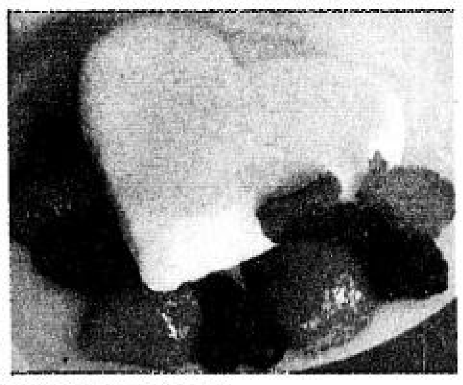
This way of preparing Potatoes Au Gratin will give you slices of potatoes that are firmer and the end result may be more appealing. Besides, this is an easier way to bake the potatoes. Only, it takes a longer time to bake the dish.

* * *

Jay asked where one can find *ube* powder. This was a continuous problem we had when we were serving *ube* pie in Paris. We had to stock up on *ube* powder. This comes in satchels of about ½ cup each. Most Filipino stores carry them abroad. I found some in a baker's supply store at the Farmer's Market.

For those asking for recipes that were published in the past, kindly be patient. I am working to get these into a booklet. Soon, hopefully.

E-mail Nora at ngdev@info.com.ph or write her at PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



WILD Berry Passion

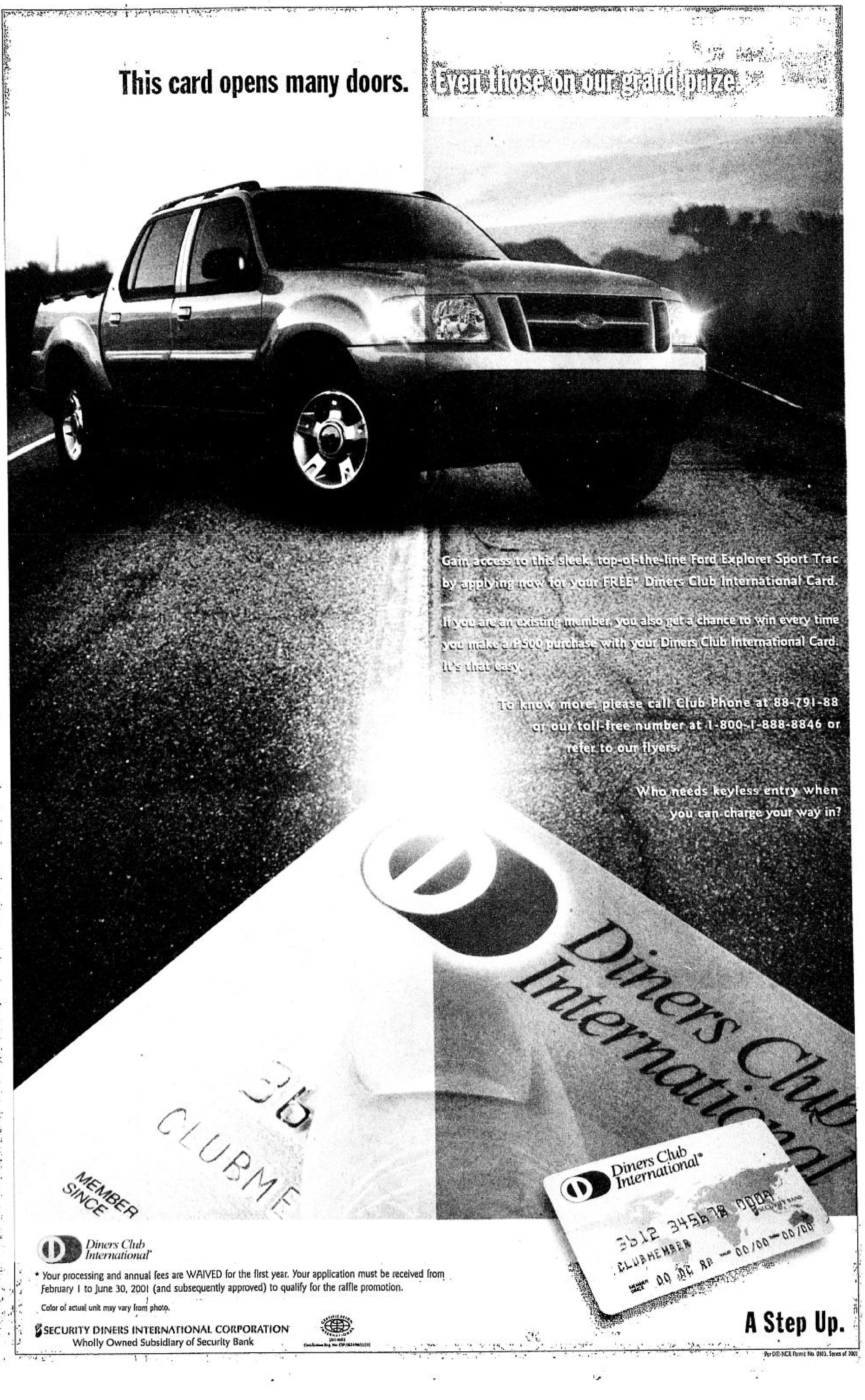
Creamy treats

FOR ONLY P143, you can have Haagen-Dazs Danish Sensation, a generous scoop of Haagen-Dazs strawberry ice cream served on a Danish waffle cone topped with strawberries glazed with whipped cream over strawberry sauce sprinkled with pistachio nuts.

Or you can choose Strawberry Rhapsody, layers of Haagen-Dazs strawberry ice cream shake and strawberry sauce for only P120+. And, last but not least, capture the heart of your loved one with Wild Berries Passion, a heart-shaped Haagen-Dazs vanilla ice cream arranged on a bed of glazed berries with mango coulis, for a very affordable price.

Haagen-Dazs Cafés are located at G/F Glorietta 3, Rizal corner North Drive, Ayala Center, Makati (892-2873, 752-7299); 3/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall (634-8108/09); Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center (809-2016/1996); Garden Square, Legaspi corner Greenbelt Drive, Makati (812-9086); and at Unit C, The Fort, Fort Bonifacio, Tagig (887-4124).

Haagen-Dazs also accepts reservations for special meetings or gatherings and advance orders of ice cream cakes for all occasions.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0103, Series of 2001

Small, quiet and stylish

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

Dining gets better along C-5 with every new resto and this one serves Asian fusion with a flair

A QUIET oasis, tucked on the second floor of an office building, serves home-cooked meal in style. Café Metro, a small, stylish haven of good food with reasonable prices, is a welcome addition to the C-5 landscape.

Café Metro's young owners, Mickee and Ria de Guzman, met when they were high school students at Menlo Park in California. Both had a passion for good food and most dates found them trying out the various restaurants in the vicinity of their respective universities.

Upon their return to Manila in 1994, they ventured into the catering business but focused mainly on the office crowd. They married and got busy raising two young daughters, while the catering business blossomed and soon the thirtysomething couple found themselves wanting to open a restaurant of their own. Thus, in November 2000 Café Metro was born.

Á la Dean and Deluca

The first thing one notices upon entering this modern café is the minimalist look: The understated elegance of muted black, white and dashes of brown is reminiscent of the Dean and Deluca shops in the United States. The interiors which were done by young architect and designer Gil Coscolluela are all at once spartan and stylish.

Food is served by an accommodating all-male staff dressed in black shirts on all-white porcelain dishes with matching European-made silver cutlery. Partaking of Caldereta or delectable Shrimps with Aligue is done with panache.

Asian fusion

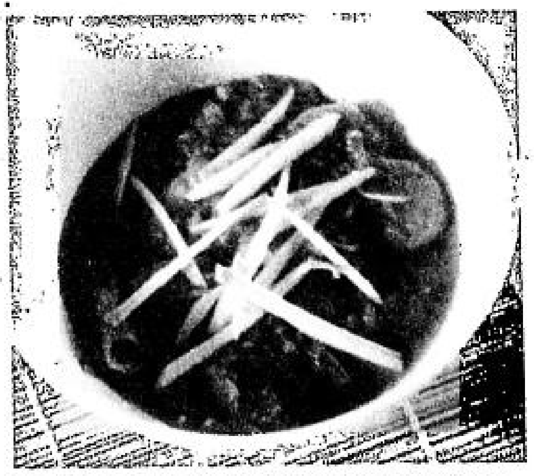
Café Metro touts itself as an Asian diner and there is a vast array of food to choose from. There is healthy Hainan Chicken, hearty Korean Beef Stew, delicious Thai Spring Rolls. On the local front, there is the General's Chicken which is diced chicken and eggplant that is a top seller at the café, or Crispy Tilapia, luscious Laing and the yummy Beef Caldereta. Personally, the Salpicao is tender and garlicky and a delight paired off with healthy Blanched Spinach for a balanced meal. To complete the meal, end it with a cool, refreshing dessert such as White Salad (everything white—*macapuno*, *kaong*, *nata de coco*) or a Buco Pandan.

Regular patrons of the café come from the nearby offices and residents of the posh villages that surround the C-5 strip. Do not be daunted, however, by the ambiance or the prices. A couple can spend an enjoyable evening at this café and come out totally stuffed and happy and only poorer by P500 to P600, depending on the appetite. On a given time and day, Café Metro can give way to exclusive parties (up to 50 guests) either sit-down or buffet style. Families gravitate to the place on weekends, and on late-weekend evenings, it shifts from a date place to a late dining cum bar with hip music that stays open until 2 a.m. Plus, on a strip where parking has become every diner's nightmare, this 50-seater café has parking (shared with two banks) good enough for 20 cars.

Great-tasting home-cooked meals with flair in an uncluttered, cool ambiance. Dining on C-5 just got better.

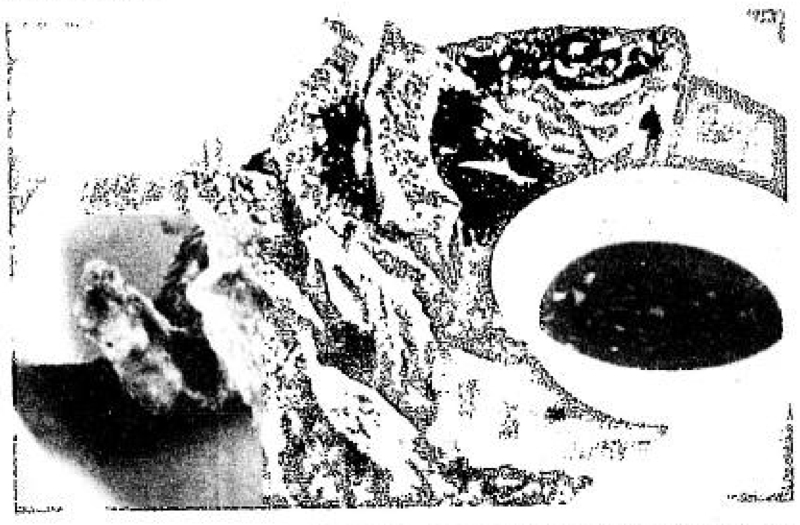
Café Metro is located at the 2/F, Triquetra Building (beside Web-jet along C-5 strip), Libis, QC. Call 437-0196.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph.


SEAFOOD SPLENDOR. Shrimps with Aligue

HEALTHY Hainanese Chicken

SPICY Squid


CRISPY Tilapia

MINIMALIST. Café Metro's hip, uncluttered interiors

Put a little squash in your rice cake

TEXT BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

RICE is universal. Especially in the Philippines, rice is the staff of life. We eat rice for breakfast, lunch and dinner with pork, chicken, fish or beef as ideal accompaniment. And we also eat rice for dessert.

STEP-BY-STEP

Foodies have developed endless recipes and cooking styles for rice. Glutinous rice cakes, such as *suman*, *puto*, *palitaw* and *bibingka* are some of the native delicacies that always grace the buffet tables of our homes. One ideal sweet ending made of the celebrated rice is *biko*, which is prepared in two tastes: with anise and squash.

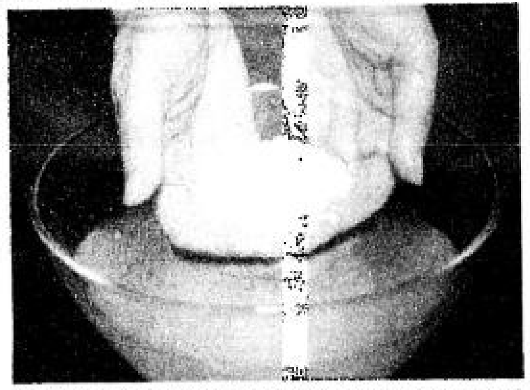
Biko with Squash is the Capampangan's version of this sticky rice cake. Squash is a versatile vegetable that gives different flavor and texture to any morsel. When cooked, it almost tastes like sweet potato.

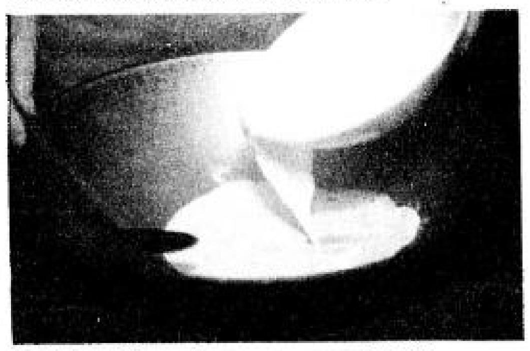
This native dessert, prepared the traditional way, must be cooked slowly in low fire and stirred constantly. Diana Santamaria of Imá Restaurant shares with us Pampanga's way of cooking *biko* with *kalabasa*. It's a pretty handy recipe and ideal for afternoon *merienda*. Generously sprinkle *latik* on top of *biko*. *Latik* is made from *kakanggata* (first extract of coconut cream) cooked until the oil comes out and leaves some solid crumbs.

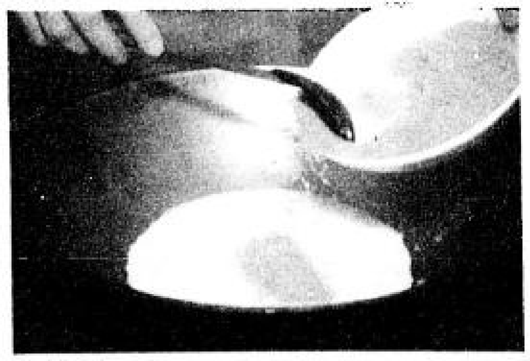
What goes well with *biko* is a hot cup of *salabat* (ginger tea). To make this native drink, boil together water, fresh ginger (sliced) and brown sugar. Add more water if the tea is too strong. Strain and serve hot or cold. Enjoy!

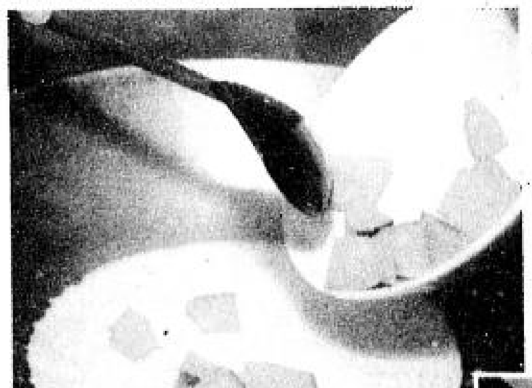
Biko with Squash

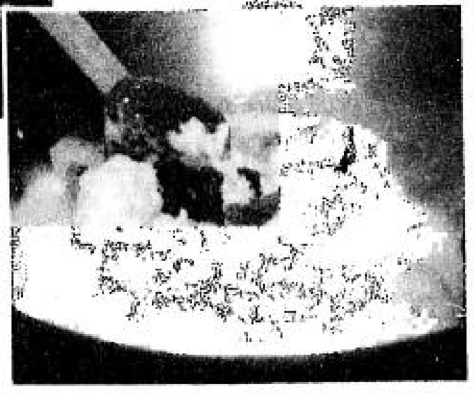
5 c glutinous rice (*malagkit* rice)
1 *pandan* leaf
300 g squash, cubed
5 c water
4 c thick coconut milk
3 c brown sugar
½ tsp salt

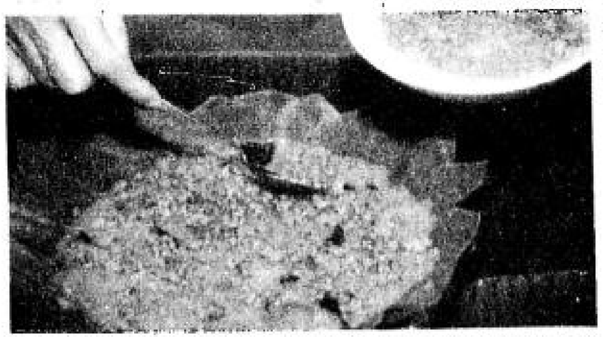

1. WASH the glutinous rice in a pot. Then add water and boil until done. Set aside.


2. IN A BIG carajay, pour coconut milk.

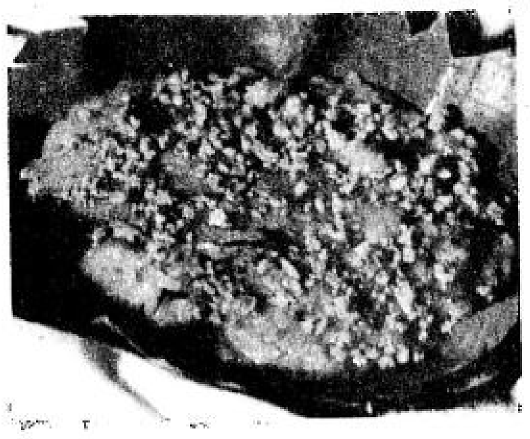

3. ADD brown sugar.


4. ADD squash. Let it boil until it thickens.


5. LOWER heat and add glutinous rice. Blend well and continue cooking, stirring constantly until mixture is thick and heavy to handle.


6. REMOVE from fire and transfer to a *bilao*, lined with banana leaves.

7. TOP with *latik*. Serves 3-4 people.



Two years and counting

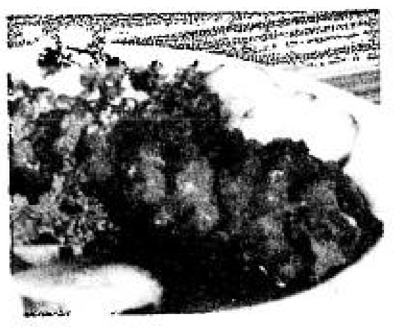
SINCE its opening two years ago, KSP Grill's menu has consisted of a variety of exotic native foods that are reasonably priced in a *kusinang bahay* atmosphere.

Located along Meralco Avenue corner Doña Julia Vargas Avenue at the heart of the posh Ortigas business district, KSP is already a popular choice among Cosmo-Manila's young executives, bright entrepreneurs, glamorous personalities and many of the country top movers and shakers, it continues to strive for more.

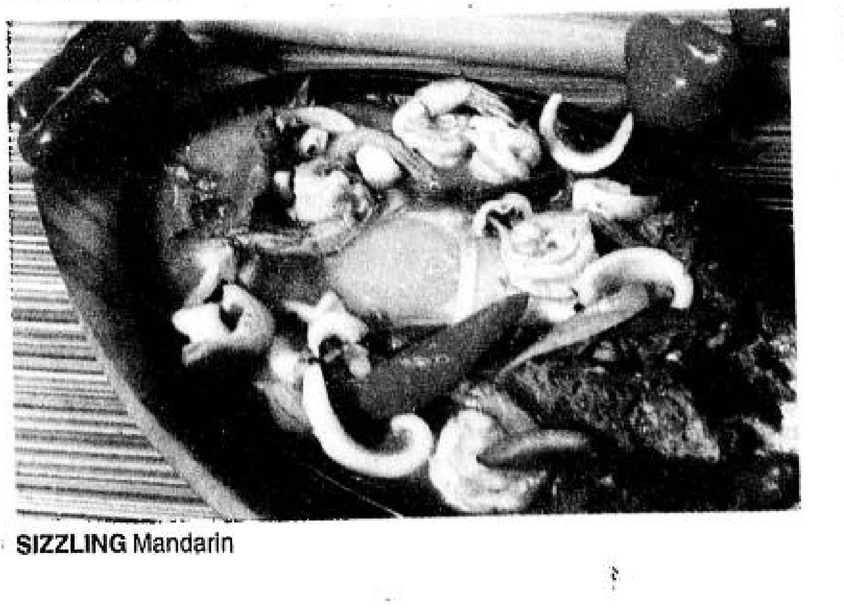
In fact, in celebration of its second anniversary, KSP has concocted more specialty dishes to add to an already exciting menu, such as Sizzling Seafoods, Seafood with Coconut Oil, Shrimp with Green Peas and Cashew Nuts, Squid Stuffed with Kutsay, the KSP Fry Special, Sizzling Mandarin, Binusog na Ampalaya, Pesang Dalag and Sinaing na Dalag. For desserts, KSP will be offering Crepe Samurai à la Dip, Farmer's Delight, Fruit Dream Delight and Apple Cinnamon Crepe.

KSP will also be making these dishes more palatable at a special promotional rate.

This month, KSP is holding the Pata Fest, which lasts up to the second week of March. Guests can choose from three combination of 1) Bicol Express and Crispy Pata. (2) Pinakbet and Crispy Pata, (3) Laing and Crispy Pata. The three combinations will cost only P295 exclusive of service charge and packaging for take-out and delivery orders. The promotional offer is available daily from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. KSP delivers only up to 9 p.m.


BINUSOG na Ampalaya

PESANG Dalag


SIZZLING Mandarin

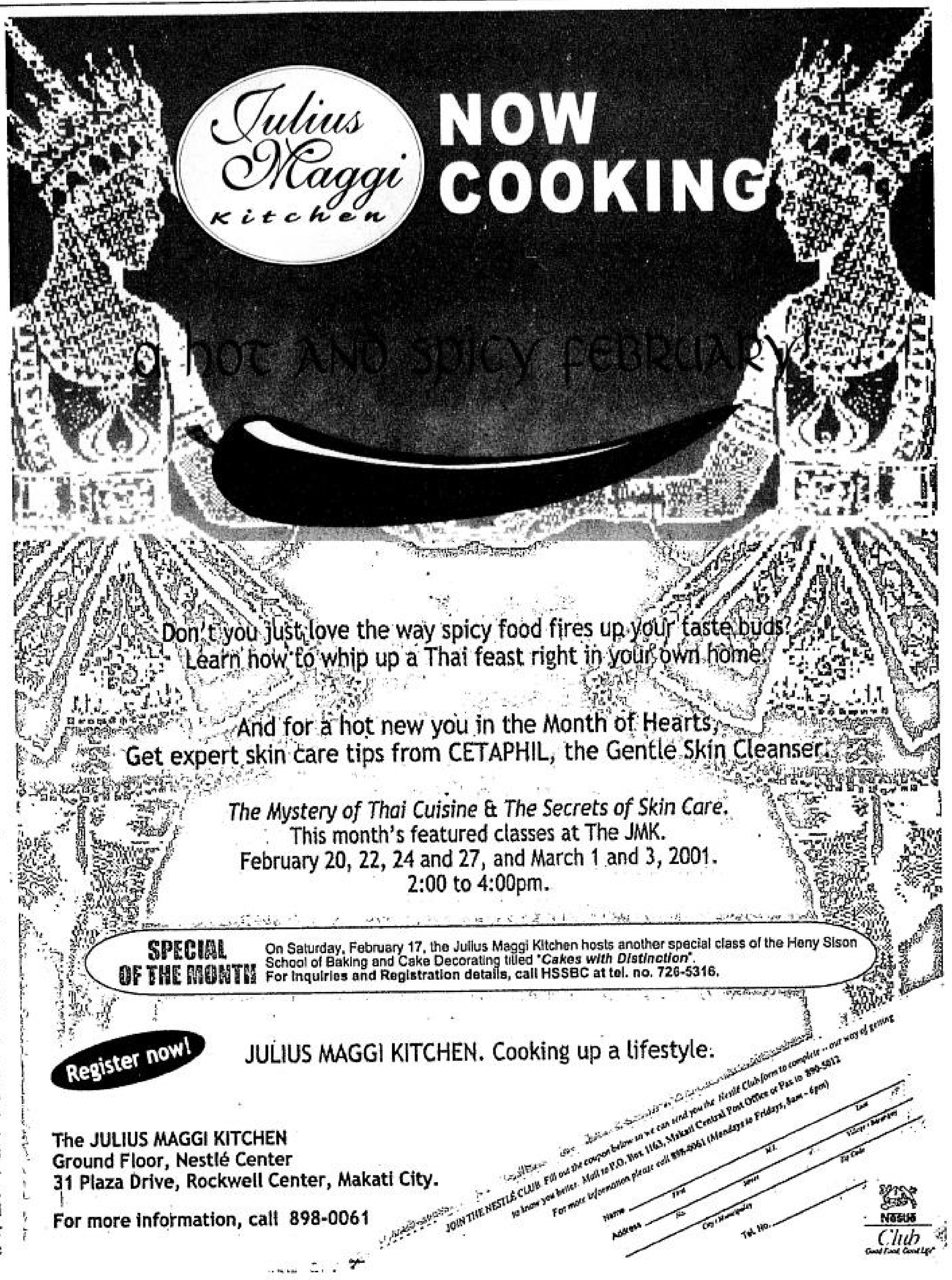
Raffle gives away 10 TV sets

TUNE in to your favorite TV show while cooking. Liven up your kitchen as Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce teams up with Reynolds Wrap for the exciting "Super Super Kitchen TV x 10 Raffle." Up for grabs are 10 Panasonic 14" TV sets—perfect for 10 lucky winners, their kitchens and lifestyle.

Here's what you have to do: Send in the cream-colored outer wrapper of any size of Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce and one proof of purchase (bar code) found on any box or wrapper of Reynolds Wrap or Reynolds Redi-pans. Staple or clip together and write your name, address, telephone number, signature and privilege card number on the Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce wrapper. You can send unlimited number of paired entries.

Send entries to P.O. Box 13210, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City not later than April 15. Raffle of entries shall be held on April 23, and winners will be notified by telephone or telegram. Only foil products manufactured by Reynolds Phils. Corp. and Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce distributed by Getz Brothers Phils. Inc. shall be accepted as valid entries.

Prizes not claimed within 30 days after notification shall be raffled off.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SPECIAL OF THE MONTH On Saturday, February 17, the Julius Maggi Kitchen hosts another special class of the Heny Sison School of Baking and Cake Decorating titled "*Cakes with Distinction*". For Inquiries and Registration details, call HSSBC at tel. no. 726-5316.

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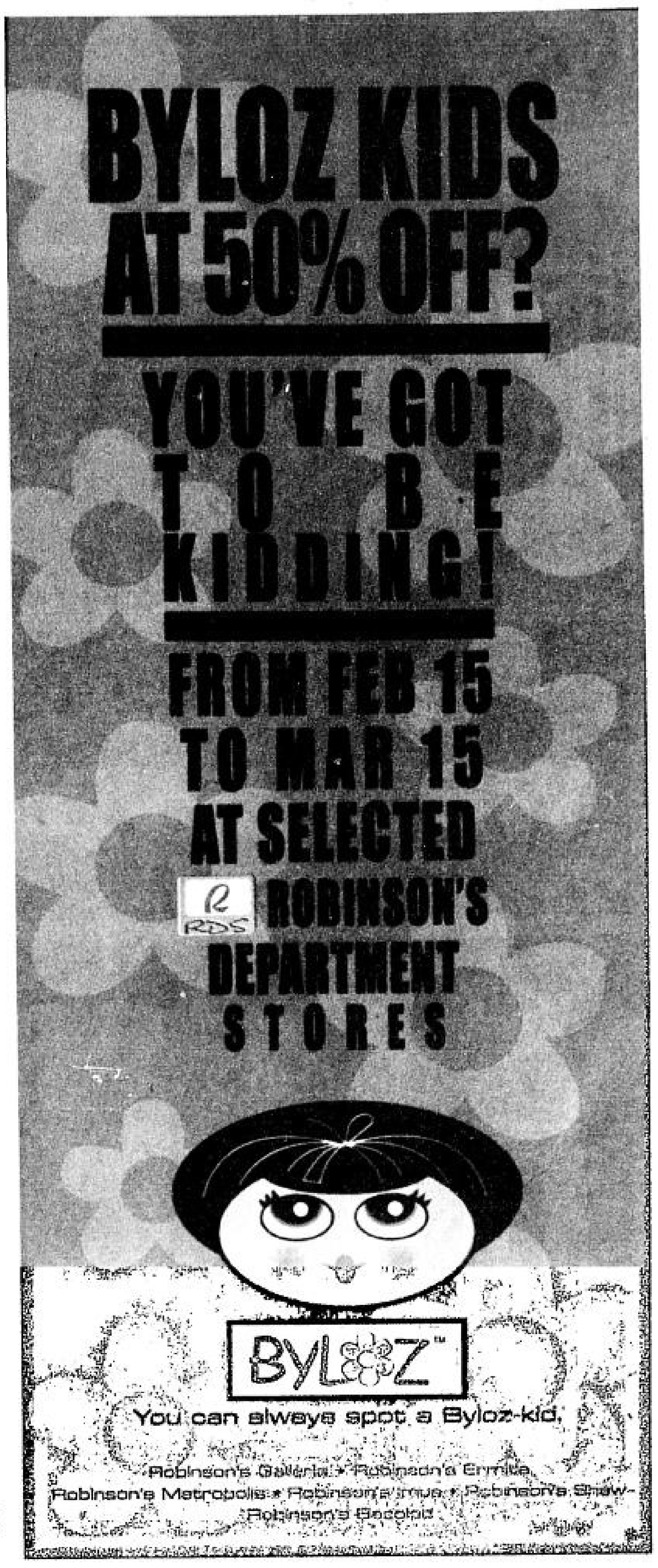
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More on the menu besides coffee

THE COUNTRY'S first coffee salon beefs up its menu with new items to complement its food and beverage selection.

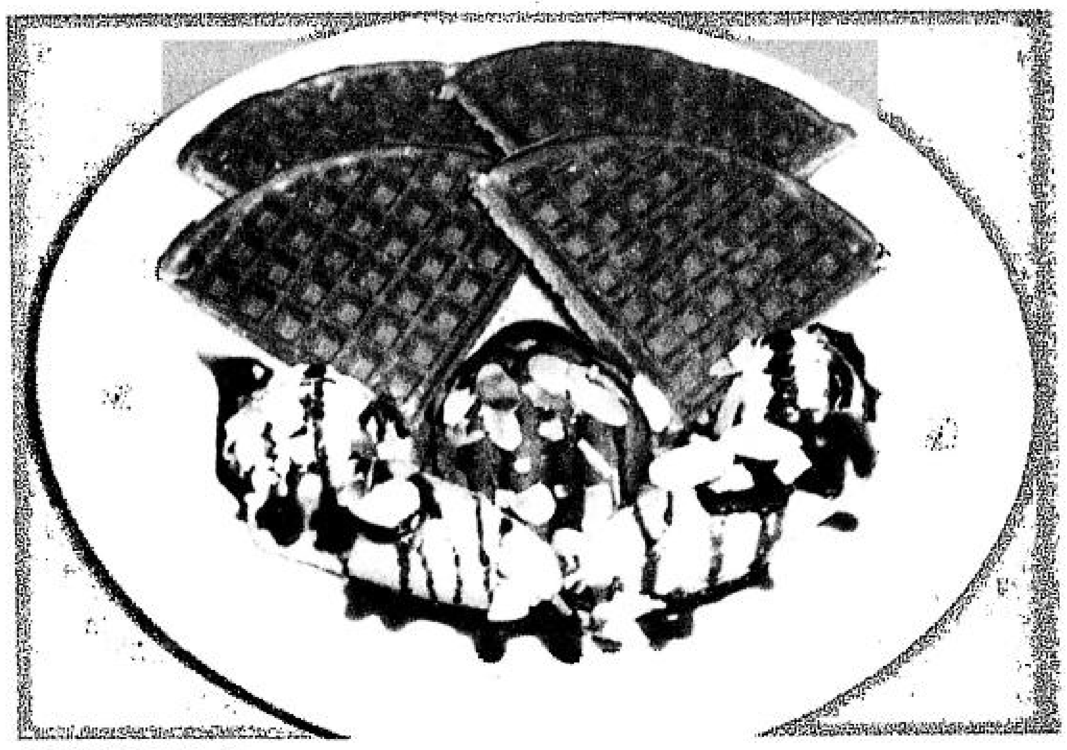
UCC Coffee Vienna Café has unique culinary offerings that are mostly Western favorites served with that unmistakable Japanese flair. It is the only coffee place in Metro Manila that serves an extensive array of food: from sandwiches and pastas to complete rice meals to desserts.

These dishes complement the salon's extensive coffee selection, all brewed using the unique siphon method which extracts the full flavor of choice coffee beans picked from UCC's coffee plantations throughout the world's so-called coffee belt.

Pastas, rice dishes, sandwiches and desserts make up the new additions to the menu. Starter choices include, among others, Green Salad with Japanese Dressing; Tuna Wasabi Salad and Seafood Salad with fried prawn, scallops, crab sticks and cod roe on a bed of lettuce.

Fried Chicken Spaghetti in White Sauce is for those who love fried chicken and spaghetti, while the flavors of Bacon, Mushroom and Sausage Spaghetti will please even the most discriminating palate. Those with huge appetites will enjoy Napolitan Spaghetti Omelette. Other unique dishes are the Fried Chicken Curry Rice Casserole and Hamburger Curry Rice.

UCC Coffee's new menu also features Tuna Wasabi Waffle Sandwich and Sausage Waffle with Japanese Salad, done the UCC way.



CHOCOLATE Waffle

For dessert, there's UCC Cream Anmitsu—a creation of kiwi, banana, peaches, Japanese jelly, *nata de coco* and ogura (Japanese red beans) with a scoop of vanilla ice cream—the Japanese version of *halo-halo*, and Chocolate Waffle Cake with bananas, whipped cream and vanilla ice cream.

UCC Coffee Vienna Café, located at G-C 184 Tomas Morato corner Scout Castor, QC, has an extensive coffee list which includes Colombia, Brazil, Sumiyaki, Kilimanjaro, UCC Blended Coffee, Decaf and Blue Mountain, considered the world's No. 1 and most expensive coffee.

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LIFESTYLE

A cookbook with the temerity to teach you how to eat

THE MAD TEA PARTY

Clinton Palanca

ONE of the most popular cookbooks in Britain today is called "How to Eat" by a woman named Nigella Lawson. It caught my eye because of the title; any book with the presumptuousness and temerity to assume it can teach you how to eat must be worth buying. It sounded like one of those history and philosophy books that they used to write in the 1950s, with titles like "The Destiny of Humankind" or "What is Thinking?" And then the second reason, I must admit, is that on the back flap cover there is a picture of her, in a skimpy black dress which shows off rather nice arms. I broke my rule about taking food advice from thin people, and bought the book.

It's one of the best-written cookbooks I've come across recently, both for reading in bed (I can read cookbooks from cover to cover, like novels), and for cooking with (I haven't actually tried out this many recipes from a single source since Richard Olney). This is especially high praise from me, because it doesn't have pictures. Like Alice, I find it hard to read books like these unless there are good photographs, because I find it hard to translate verbal instructions into what are essentially sensual endeavors, cooking and eating. But Ms Lawson's book, as the title promises, is not about cooking; it's not just a recipe book. It tries to show you how to deal with food in your life.

It's also inherently sensible, in precisely the way Martha Ste-

A COOKBOOK/ p.D4

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

'It is one of the best-written cookbooks I've come across recently, both for reading in bed . . . and for cooking with . . . This is especially high praise from me, because it doesn't have pictures'

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Facial encounters

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- Dinah Dominguez, 37
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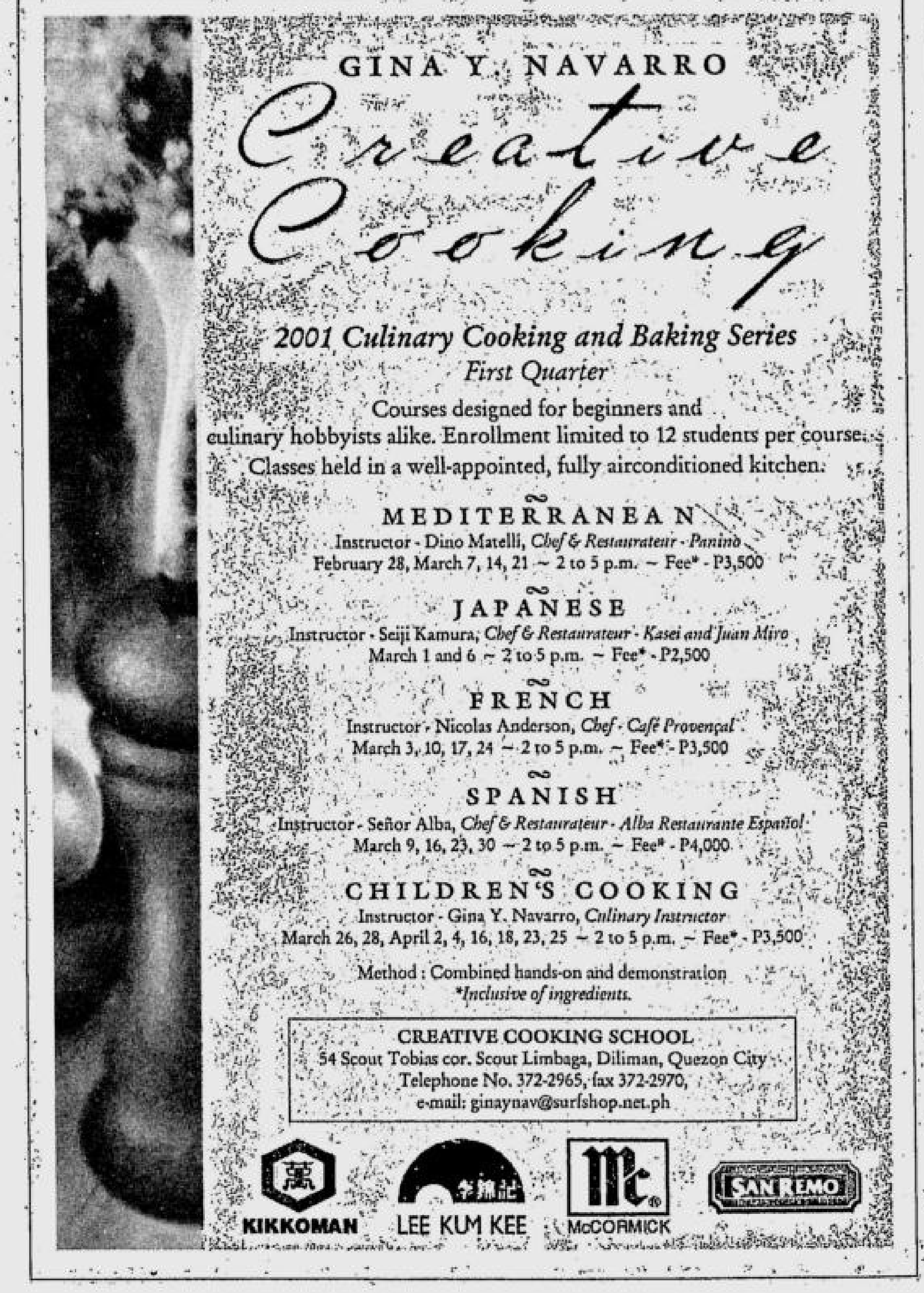

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March 1 and 6 ~ 2 to 5 p.m. ~ Fee* - P2,500

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Instructor - Nicolas Anderson, *Chef - Café Provençal*
March 3, 10, 17, 24 ~ 2 to 5 p.m. ~ Fee* - P3,500

SPANISH
Instructor - Señor Alba, *Chef & Restaurateur - Alba Restaurante Español*
March 9, 16, 23, 30 ~ 2 to 5 p.m. ~ Fee* - P4,000

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Red, white and Bedans

SOME of the country's well-known celebrities and personalities have come together to salute the centennial year of their alma mater, San Beda College, through the "Centennial Red and White Ball Affair" today, 7:30 p.m. at the NBC Tent at The Fort.

Leading the celebrations is Manuel V. Pangilinan (Class 1962), touted as one of the most influential and powerful businessmen in Asia. The founder of First Pacific Co., one of Asia's most dynamic conglomerates, and now head of the country's leading telecommunications company, PLDT, he has nothing but fond memories of his elementary and high school days in San Beda.

"At the time, San Beda was something very European especially in terms of its architecture which was quite gothic. To me, it was a quaint community in the middle of a bustling city."

Pangilinan's school mornings usually began with his father bringing him to school since his Philippine National Bank office was just in Escolta. It was a practice that would continue until high school but, according to Pangilinan, "I went home on my own every day."

A flag ceremony followed by prayers was another San Beda routine. "All Bedans led a very active religious life," Pangilinan says. "I think we would have Mass at least once a week. In fact, I even assisted in early morning Masses."

So did he ever think about becoming a priest someday?

"With most of our teachers either deacons or priests, I think it was quite fashionable to think of such a vocation. But I did think about it seriously. I was active in my catechism classes and I was always a part of Student Catholic Action groups. Every time there would be competitions in religion subjects, I usually won."

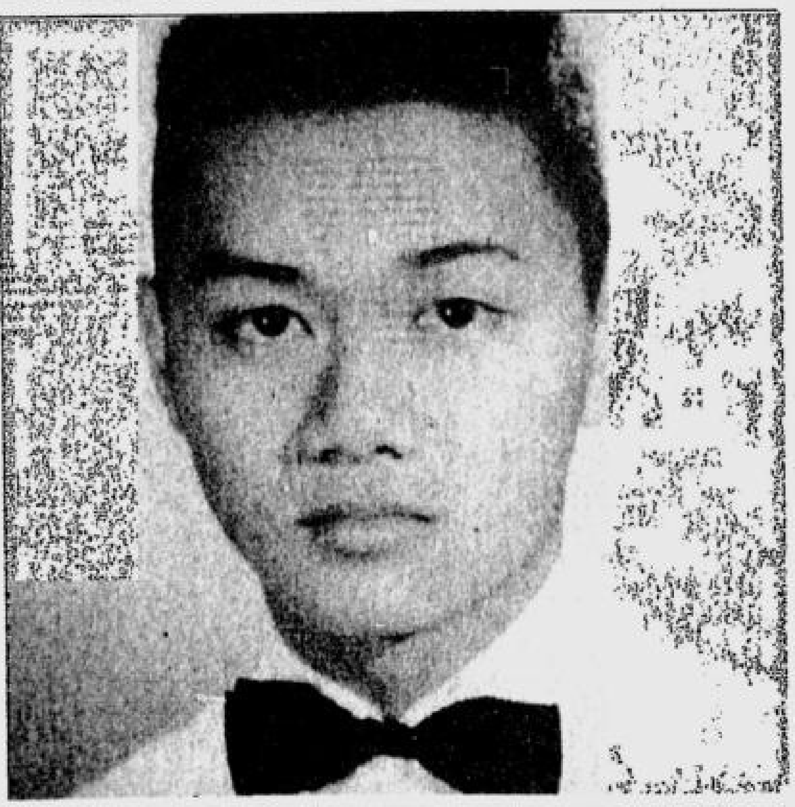
His father, who probably already had an inkling then about where his son's talents lie, discouraged him about such an ambition. Taking his father's advice, Pangilinan pursued a different path, one that would bring him recognition all over. However, he also brought with him lessons he learned in San Beda that proved to be invaluable.

"I was just in fourth grade when I began joining contests in spelling, religion and mathematics. That taught me how to be competitive. The Benedictines were also exemplary leaders and I learned from them discipline, this strong sense of order, in anything you do. And the kind of religious life I was exposed to provided the firm grounding I needed when it comes to faith."

Pangilinan expects many of his Bedan brothers to attend the Red and White Ball Affair which promises to be an exciting event. Prominent Bedans include House Speakers Ramon Mitra, Arnulfo Fuentabella and Feliciano Belmonte; Senators Rene Saguisag and Raul Roco; Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, Justices of the Supreme Court Florenz Regalado and Justo Torres; Frederico Alcuaz and Ben Ferrales; Dr. Tyrone Reyes and Dr. Jimmy Galvez Tan; and businessmen Antonio Delgado and Antonio Roxas Chua.

To be hosted by Bedan Herbert Bautista and Kris Aquino, daughter of another alumnus, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., the ball promises to be a memorable one with entertainment to be provided by the UN4gettables, Mitch Valdez who comes from San Beda's sister school, St. Scholastica's College, Judith Banal and Bedans Dingdong Dantes and Eugene Villaluz. A rigodon de honor will also be part of the program with ballroom dancing until the wee hours of the night.

Call 735-5995.



HIGH School graduation photo of Manuel V. Pangilinan straight out of San Beda yearbook

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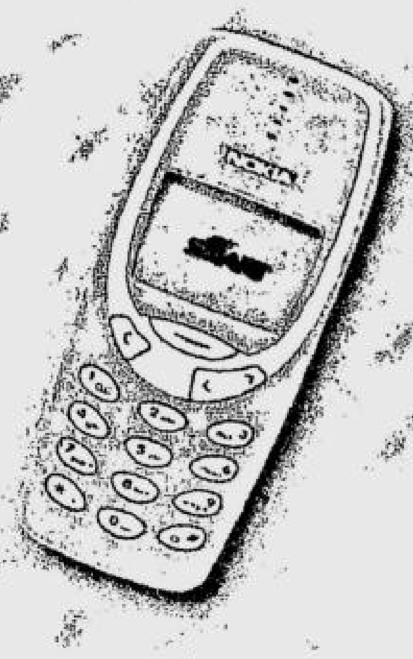

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COOLERS
Savor the rich fragrance and fruity taste of Santa Cristina 1998 (red) and the dry, complex flavor of Villa Antinori Bianco 1998 (white). Tuk Tuk Cooler is made from vodka, Passoa Passion drink, fresh mango juice and sugar syrup. Ramayana Magic blends vodka, calamansi juice, mango juice, Passoa Passion drink and peach purée. And Sawasdee is a combination of rum, Passoa Passion drink and peach purée. Call 867-3333, local 3346/-47.

TIGER HEARTS
Experience the surge of romance with Tiger Hearts, Mandarin Oriental Manila's drink for the month. Taste the blend of Bacardi rum, pineapple juice, guyabano juice, strawberry syrup and sugar syrup as you and your loved one spend a relaxing time together.

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Fun way of celebrating democracy

WHILE rallying in the streets during Edsa II seemed in vogue and noble, sleeping there didn't feel so nice. Checking in at Manila Galleria Suites sounded so much more comfortable. You were lucky if you thought of this early on. MGS got so many bookings it almost considered putting beds in the lobby. Those empowered people would give anything for a bath and a good night's sleep.

The hotel's Raphael Café-Restaurant was also mobbed, such that even the "Man of the Hour," Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, had to be turned away and asked to go to the hotel's other outlet, the Monet Bar Lounge. The waiters had to improvise juggling acts to get through a jumble of extra chairs and hungry people. Imagine, refilling a buffet table and having all the food gone in 60 seconds.

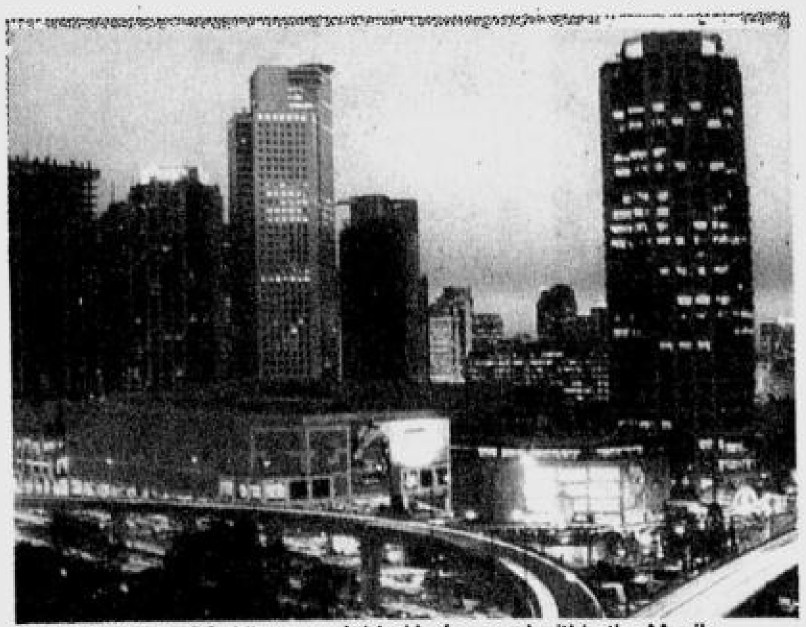
MGS, of course, got its fair share of politics. Seen were former President Fidel V. Ramos, Sen. Serge Osmeña, Laguna Gov. Joey Lina, Gov. Chavit Singson, the now famous Emma Lim. Adding flavor to the extremely hot affair were Representatives Barbers, Zubiri, Andaya, Defensor, Roilo Golez and Nani Perez plus Senators Biazon, Roco and Magsaysay.

Celebrities? Them, too. The bellboys drooled over the voluptuous Osang while all hotel personnel ogled Bong and Lani Revilla, Edu Manzano, Roderick Paulate, Amy Perez, Agot Isidro with husband Manu Sandejas, Vivian Velez and Bobong Velez (not related). Dante Jimenez, Bettina Araneta Aboitiz and Rosanna Tuason Fores were very much welcome. Even Joey Cuisia, Rico Hizon, Rico Yan, Gary Valenciano and Gary Lising.

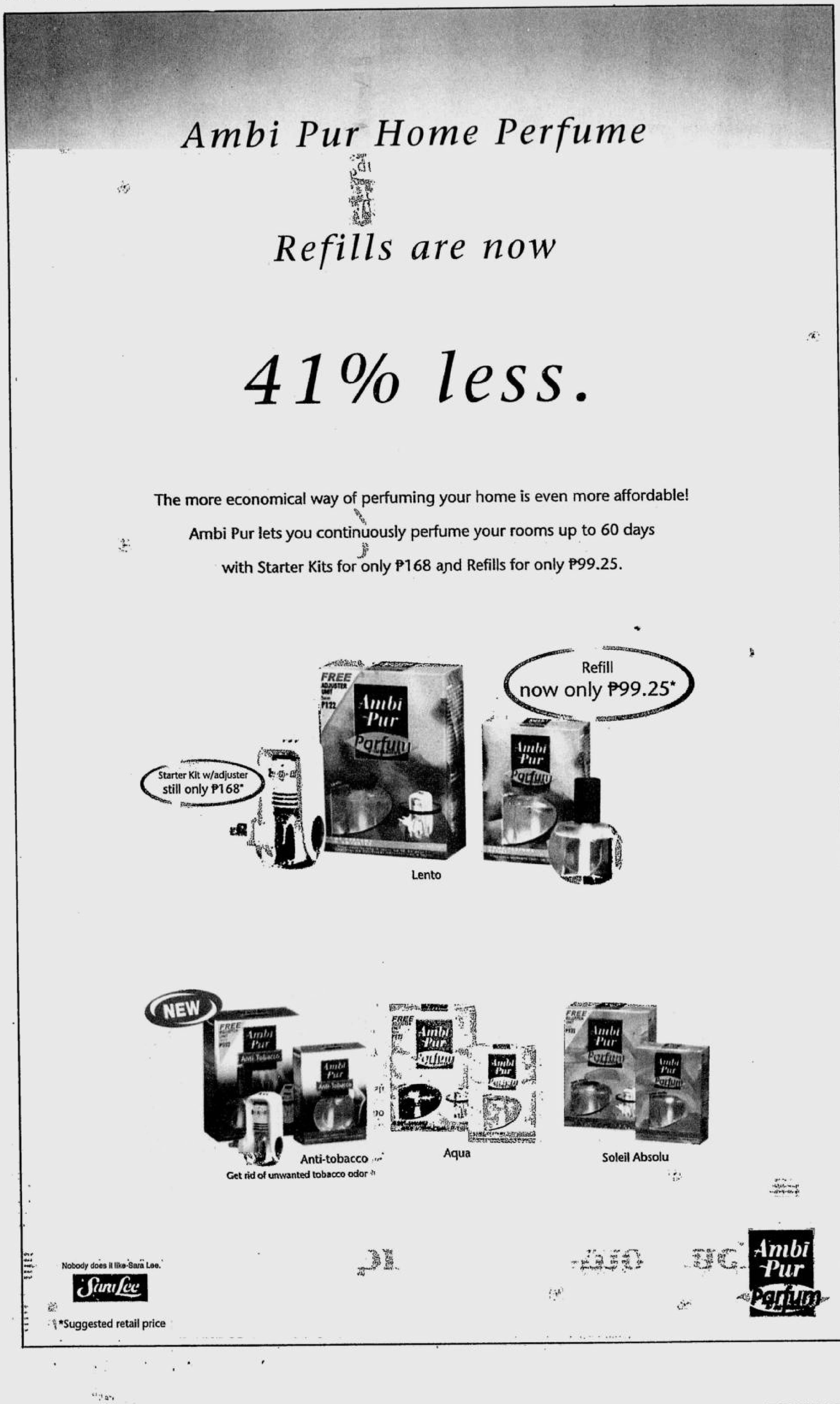
As powerful as it was, Edsas II was also fun. Especially pigging on P100 worth of fish balls and squid balls. Even a hotel that promises you the moon can't give you that! But from the popular fish balls found in the streets to the snobbish smoked salmon or caviar served in MGS, Edsa II was indeed a hard yet fun way of celebrating democracy, the Pinoy way.

Needless to say, People Power every day will be beneficial to MGS, not to mention all the food establishments in Robinsons Galleria, street vendors and the bathroom tissue manufacturers and water bottlers in the Philippines. Throw in international exposure via BBC, CNBC or CNN and you'll have to wonder—what more can MGS ask for.

But then again, every day? No, this time, democracy has to work and it has to work well, for the sake of the Filipino people, and MGS.



PROUD WITNESS. History unfolded before and within the Manila Galleria Suites when it became the spontaneous People Power II headquarters.



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A cookbook with the temerity . . .

(From page D1)

wart isn't. This book will not tell you to do ridiculous things like weave your own baskets or tend your own bees; it begins with the assumption that the modern domestic cook is most likely to be an overworked man or woman, with a day job as well as the kids to look after. She firmly makes a distinction between restaurant cuisine, which is based on flavor from stocks (the fonds of French cuisine, simmered for long hours), and then assembled at the last minute, and food that is cooked by real people for themselves.

But at the same time that she assumes these people are worked off their feet and need to prepare dinner in an hour or two, she recognizes the great food revolution of the past decade (Ms Lawson is from Britain, where they have recently discovered that food can actually taste good), and that people want more than pre-packaged, frozen, or tinned food. They want real, natural, nutritious food; but they want it done at the pace of a modern lifestyle. Is there such a compromise?

Worth replicating

Ms Lawson does try very hard to find one, and for the most part succeeds. Not all of it is translatable in practice for our own country and culture, but some of it is; more importantly, the theory is one that is worth replicating. As someone who lives alone, I can attest to the difficulty of managing food; that is, dealing with food in such a way that I eat well and cheaply. Vegetables at supermarkets are often packaged into plastic bags in quantities more than I can use at a time; meanwhile, the lines are so long that I want to pack everything into one great trip, where I get everything that I need in one go. I tried, for a while, buying what I needed for just a day or two, at the corner mini-mart: the quality was awful, as bad as though I had bought these items the week before at the supermarket.

Another wonderful aspect of Ms Lawson's approach is her willingness to compromise. She cheerfully admits to using stock cubes to enrich the flavor of stews, as opposed to most recipe books, which tend to deny the existence of such things. (Historically, though, stock cubes are not such a new invention: medieval cooks would reduce their stocks to a sludgy mass, which could keep on the shelf, and be reconstituted with water as necessary.) Like myself, she is not much of a drinker, and understands the ridiculousness of opening a bottle of wine just to use a few splashes for deglazing the pan and suchlike (she recommends Madeira wine, which can be resealed, as a substitute).

Like most people, she mixes store-bought products with homemade ones. It even contains the line: "Every day, I thank God for frozen peas." You won't find that in your "Joy of Cooking."

The book is divided into sections based on the circumstances within which one is cooking, i.e., for a dinner party, or for weekend lunch, or for dinner with a few close friends, or just feeding oneself after a long day. Except for the weekend lunch, those are exactly the various circumstances when I find myself in the kitchen. Also, I'm making one of my usual yo-yo attempts to try and eat at home more, since I'm convinced that most restaurant food in Manila is a gigantic rip-off.

Sensible approach

How I wish someone would write an equivalent book for my segment of the population in the Philippines, where everything about food (the way it is retailed, the kinds of dishes that we eat, the complexity of each dish) is still geared toward either a poor household where the wife stays home and cooks, or a middle-class to rich household which has an army of servants. Note that Ms Lawson's solutions are tailored to British tastes, and are, I suppose, based on the availability of produce in the average London supermarket, but are not rooted in British cuisine, but in Italian and French country cuisine. Her answer, in short, is not to simplify procedures, but to simplify tastes. Similarly, I don't believe that the way for us lies in having pre-packaged *kare-kare* in tins, or to invent a new three-minute *kare-kare*, but in preparing something simpler and leaving *kare-kare* to Sunday dinner with the family, or to the Aristocrat restaurant.

I think there is a new way of eating on the horizon for Filipinos, especially single people living alone, like myself, or young married couples who, for reasons of their own, don't want to get a maid, or prefer to have a day-maid rather than a domestic servant who lives in the house.

Perhaps the answers lie in the simpler dishes of our Asian neighbors, the way Ms Lawson turned to her continental neighbors for solutions: the noodle dishes of China, Japan and Southeast Asia; a vegetable-and-meat dish to be eaten with rice; a light curry to be eaten with rice. Or perhaps, for simplicity, integrated rice dishes: fried rice in its various forms, congee or *lugaw*; risotto. And of course, there's the staple of the man-in-the-kitchen, the mainstay of sensitive-guy-who-can-cook: pasta in infinite variety. Especially carbonara.

I fear for our culinary heritage, and all those wonderfully complex dishes that involve pounding rice, grating coconut, extracting bile from a goat's glands, simmering for hours, wrapping stuff in banana leaves, burying rice in a pot for a few weeks, and so on, but at the same time long for a more sensible approach to life in the kitchen. When you're dead tired from a day in the office, the last thing you need to deal with is a goat's innards. (Trust me on this one.) In the meantime, try to get a copy of Ms Lawson's book, and there will always be the manifold tricks you can perform on a styrofoam cup of instant noodles.

E-mail the author at clinton@i-manila.com.ph

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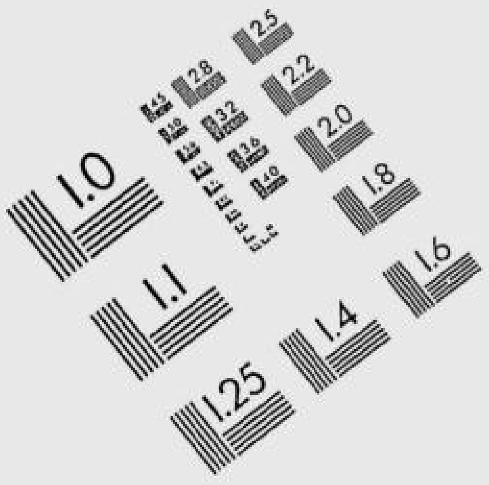
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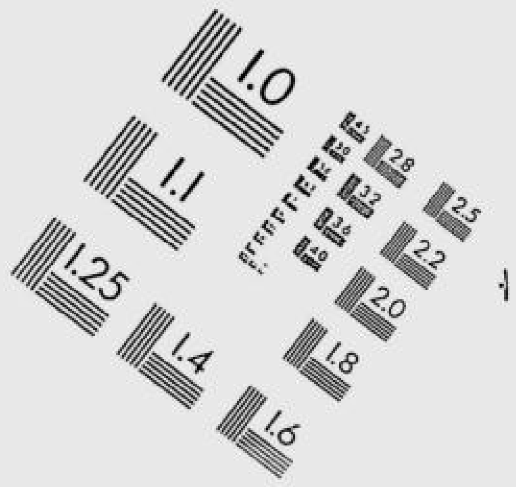
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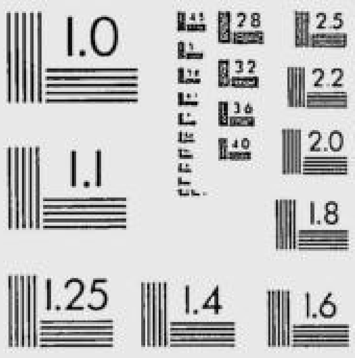
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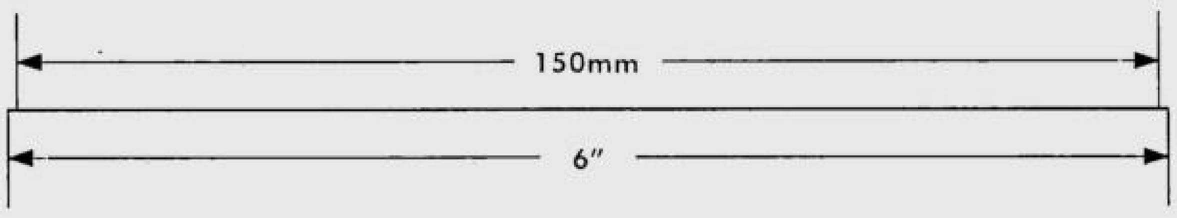

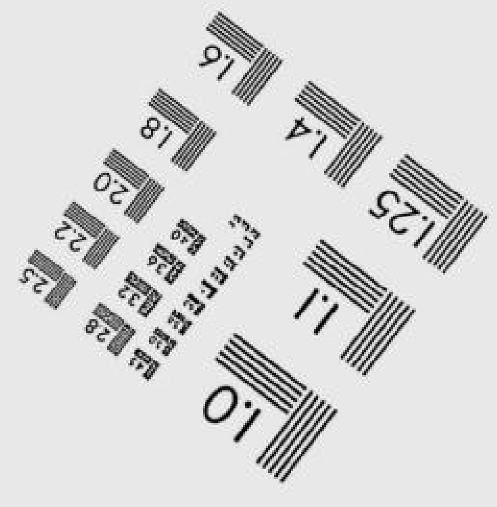
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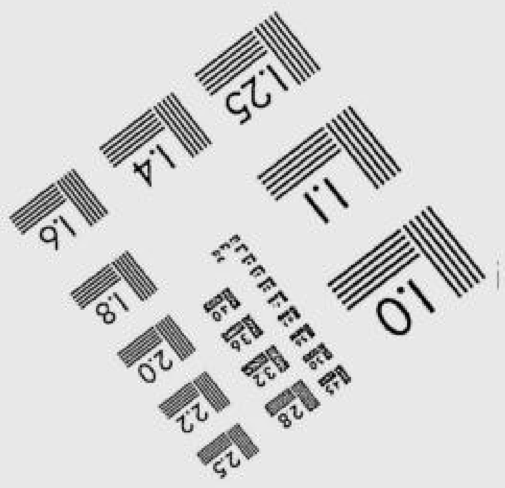
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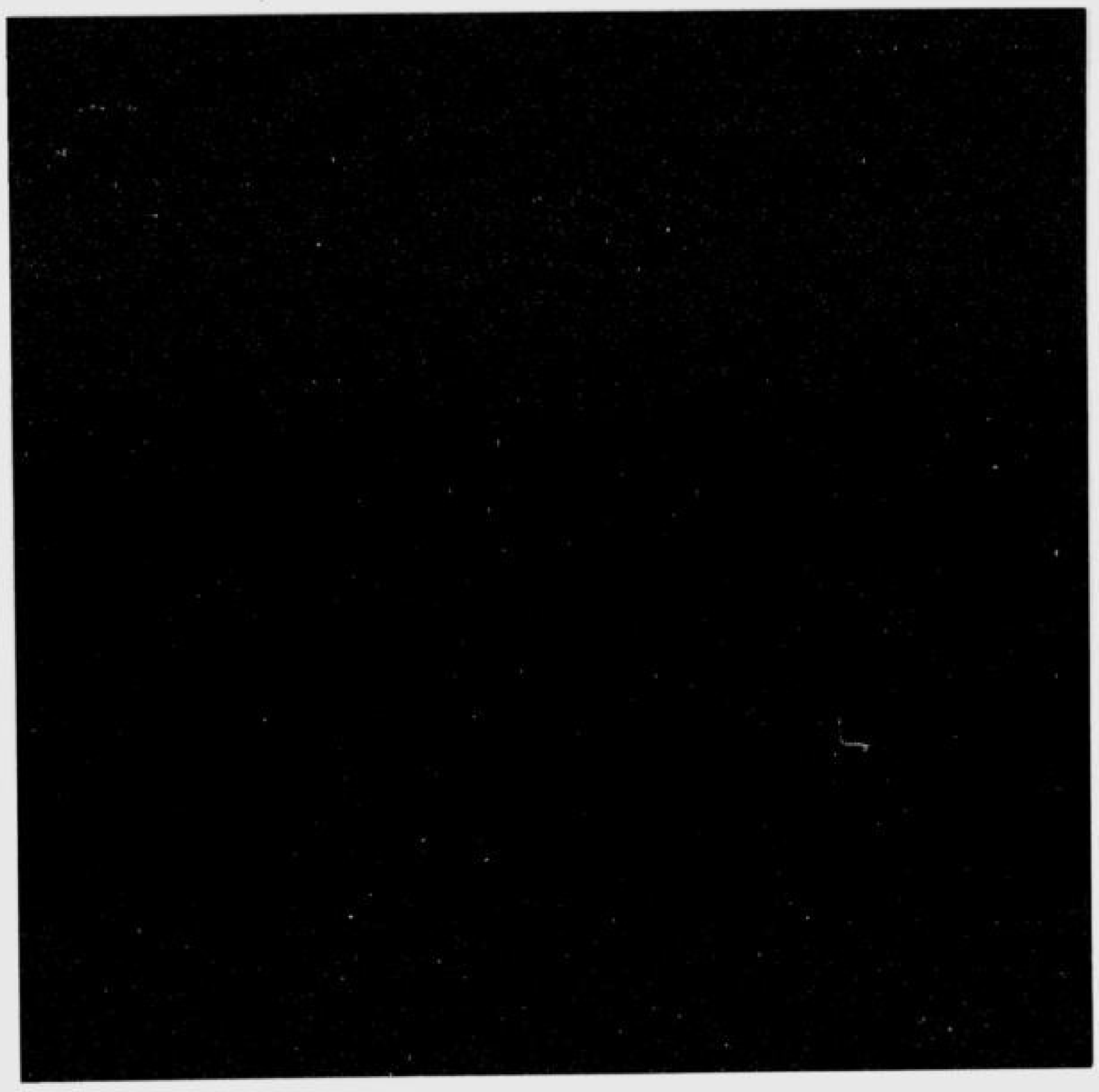

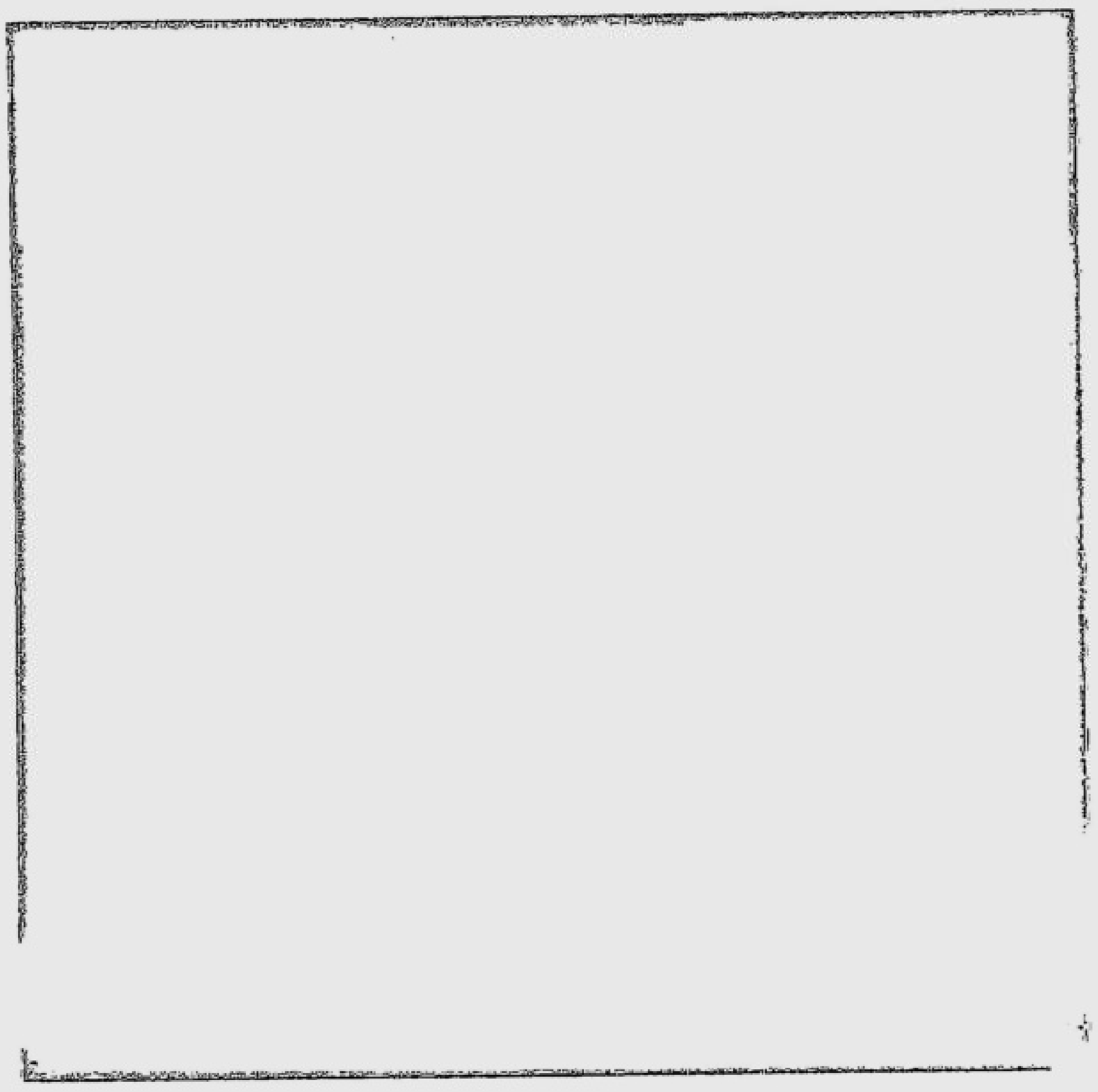

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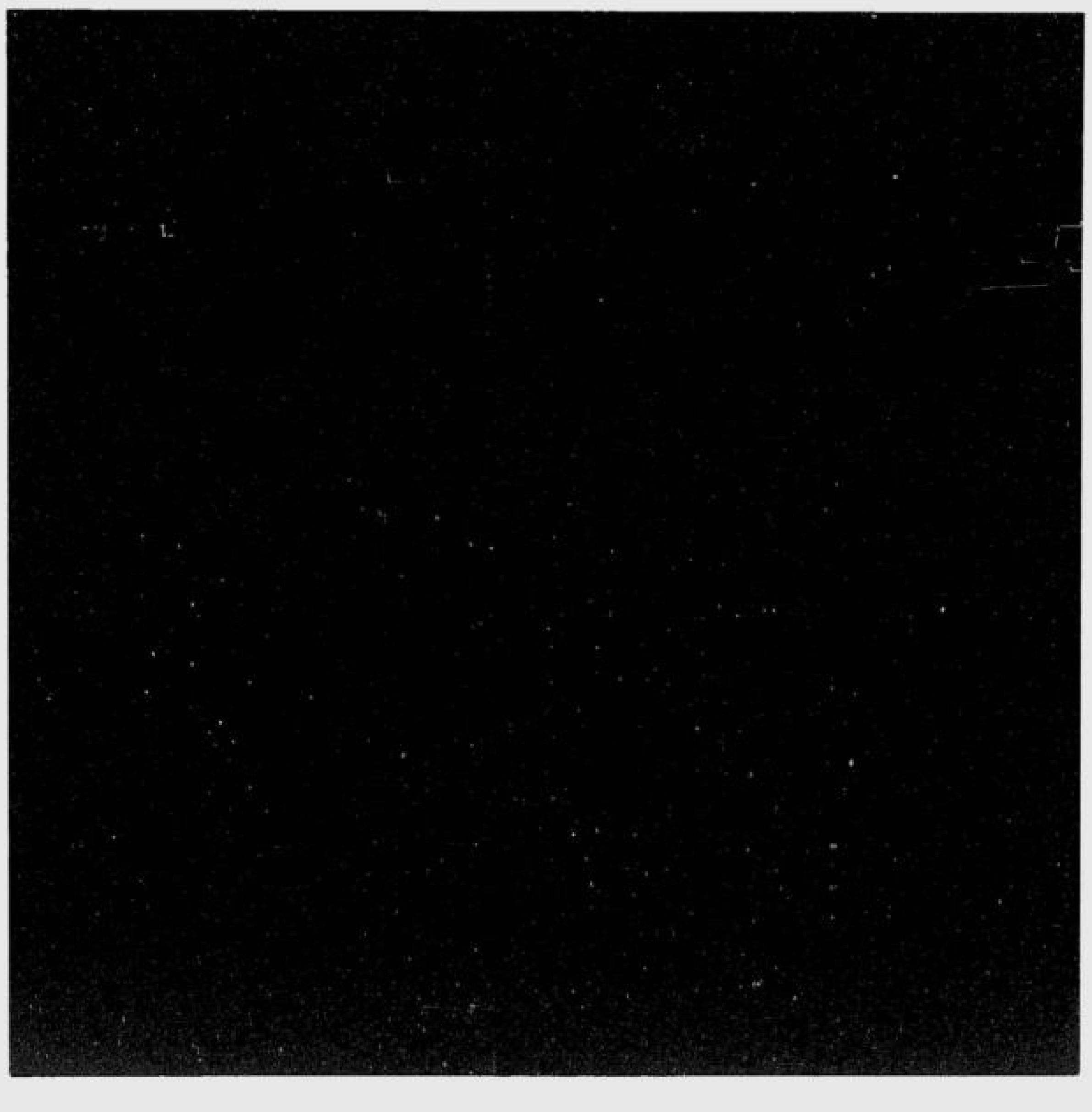

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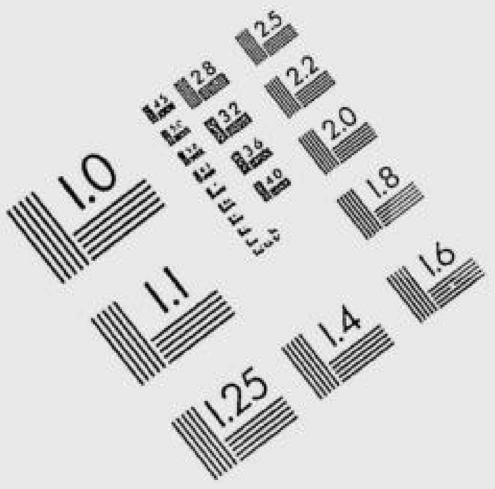
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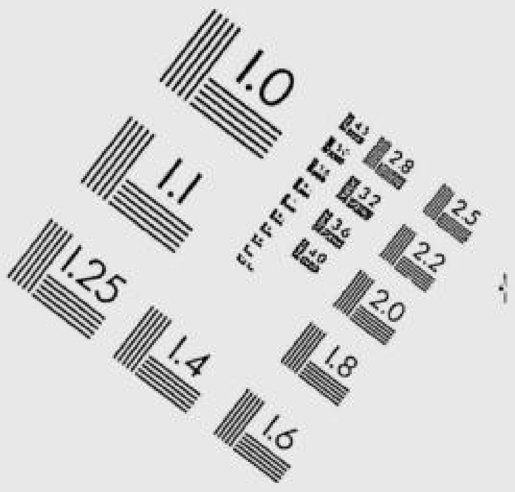
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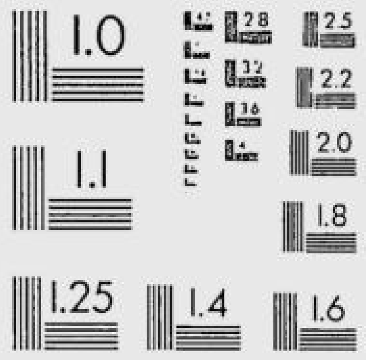
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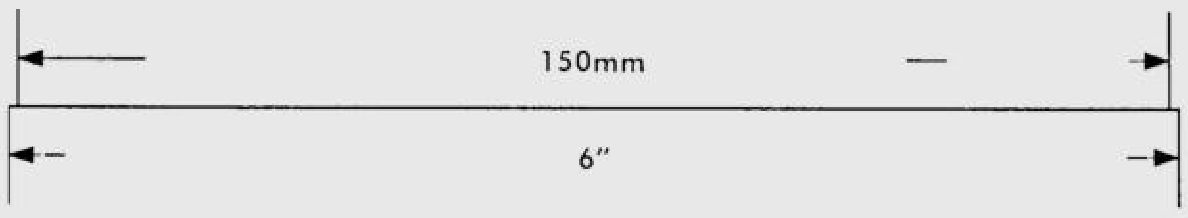

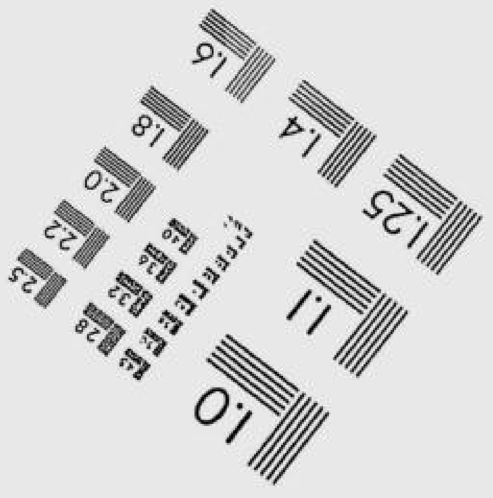
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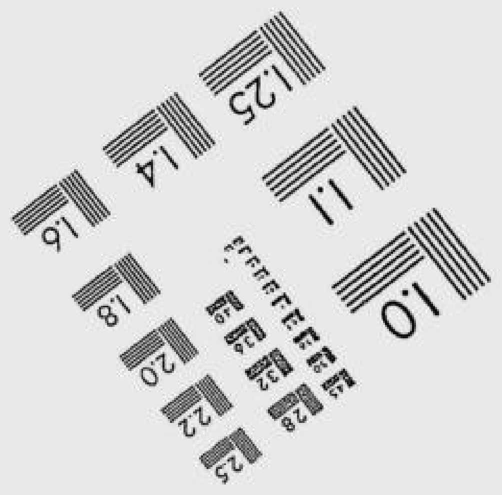
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